Hafa Adai!
Merry Christmas
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Dynasty's 197 CW1 petitions denied

» Petitions cover 693 beneficiaries
» Senate passes resolution urging USCIS to reconsider

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has denied 197 CNMI-only Transitional Worker petitions involving 693 beneficiaries of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Tinian Dynasty general manager Tom Liu confirmed that the company received a notice from USCIS but declined to comment further on the issue, saying the hotel's lawyer is "handling this matter as we speak."

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'Marianas Trench may be a biological hot spot'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

An international collaboration of scientists recently led a monthlong expedition to study the deepest point on earth in the Marianas Trench, the Challenger Deep. Researchers found evidence suggesting a trench teeming with life, footage of a new fish species, as well as various samples that may answer questions about deep-sea life in the future, according to the expedition's co-chief scientist, Dr. Jeff Drazen, in an exclusive in-

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'Celebrate Christmas joyfully with loved ones'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Commonwealth leaders urged the island community yesterday to celebrate Christmas with loved ones and enjoy the holiday season.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider said their message for this Christmas season is summed up in three words—peace, love, and hope.

"Throughout our islands, every-

See CELEBRATE on Page 4

Bill allowing $5M from MPLT to be used for CUC stipulated order OK'd

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Senate approved yesterday a bill appropriating future Marianas Public Land Trust interest distributions to meet the CNMI's obligations under a settlement agreement it signed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Under the deal, the local government is required to deposit over $22.8 million until 2018 to complete some stalled Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects.

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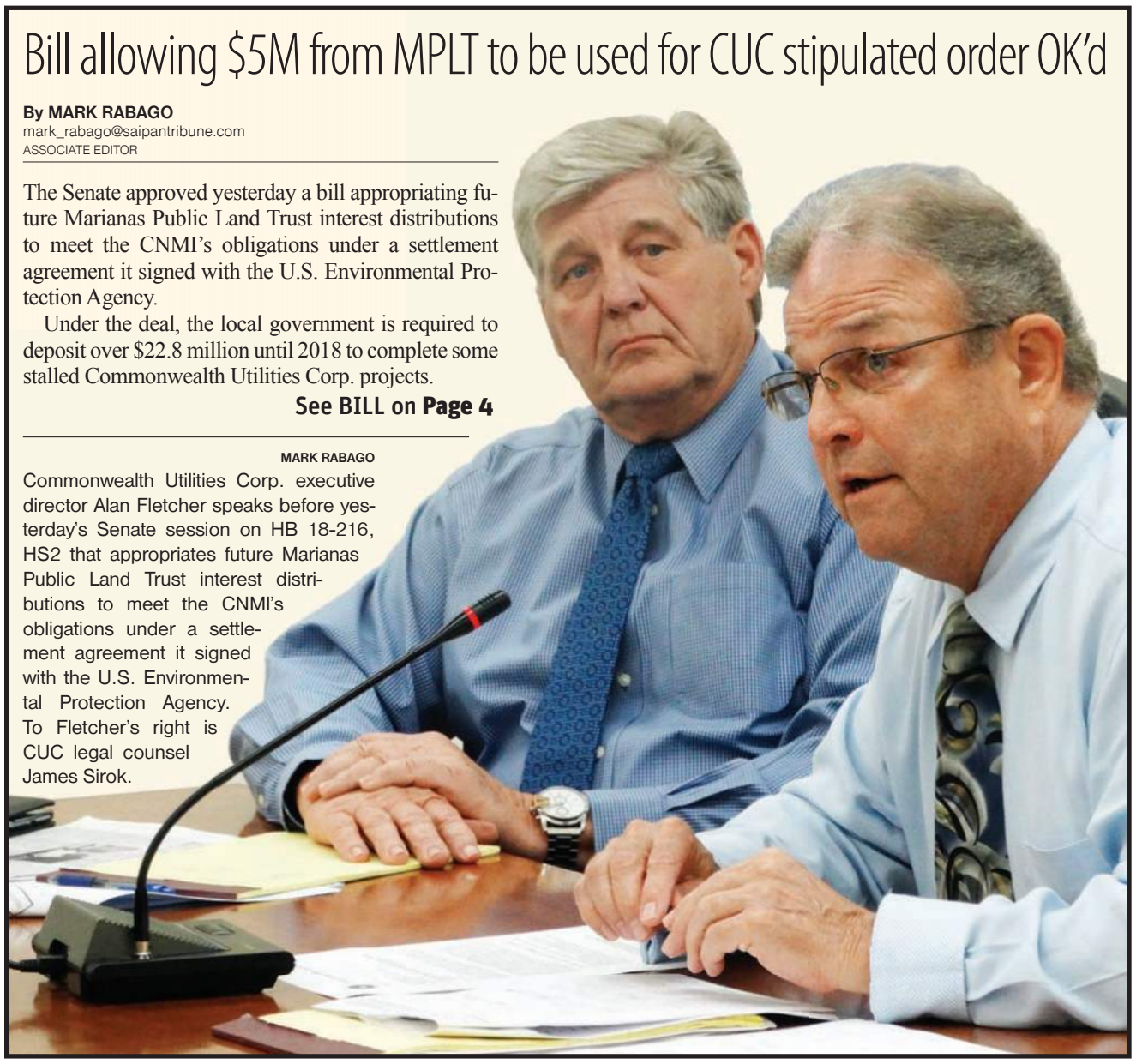

MARK RABAGO
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher speaks before yesterday's Senate session on HB 18-216, HS2 that appropriates future Marianas Public Land Trust interest distributions to meet the CNMI's obligations under a settlement agreement it signed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To Fletcher's right is CUC legal counsel James Sirok.

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This holiday season, it's becoming easier to shop oversea.
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Local

Kagman road paving now awaiting signatures

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

A contract to pave some parts of Kagman roads is now being routed for signatures before any notice to proceed could be issued to the contractors.

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are waiting for the signatures now since the contractors have already been chosen.

"We are waiting for the signatures and once it is signed we will proceed with the contract," Sablan said.

He said four areas will be paved: Chopak drive, Katbun St., Pine Drive, and Mangga St.

Aside from various Kagman projects and Precinct 5 areas, Sablan said that upper San Vicente is one other area that DPW is working on for road improvement.

"We are also working on Oleai road in front of the school. That contract is also up for signature. We were able to get $100,000 to fix the road area in front of Oleai Elementary School," Sablan said.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said that Precinct 5 residents will also be seeing various infrastructure improvement projects.

See KAGMAN on Page 4

Five high schools competing in T-Galleria's gingerbread house tilt

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Five high schools in the CNMI have started decorating gingerbread houses as part of a competition sponsored by T-Galleria.

T-Galleria promotions manager Jamika Reyes said they opened the competition to five high schools only: Kagman High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Saipan International School.

Reyes said that T Galleria provided the gingerbread structure and some edible decorations. It is then up to the schools to use other ingredients if they want to.

Starting yesterday until tomorrow, Dec. 25, T Galleria will be giving out ballots to customers who are over 18 years old to vote on their favorite gingerbread house.

The students started decorating their gingerbread houses on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014.

KHS culinary arts teacher Nonisa Camacho said she has five students joining the competition.

"They showed enthusiasm in joining and we practiced for several days. We are going for the non-traditional gingerbread house decorations and going for an island theme that will incorporate Christmas," Camacho said.

MBA principal Rev. Ramiro Trinidad said their theme is the traditional gingerbread house but with a sweeter taste, incorporating colorful candies into the gingerbread house.

"We have about 10 students and they are seniors. We encouraged them to join and if they win they will use it for their fundraiser on their senior trip to South Korea," Trinidad said.

SSHS National Honor Society adviser Karen Echon also has 10 students in the contest. Their theme for the gingerbread house is incorporating a cabin-like feature.

MCS senior student Aysia Santos said their theme is a "Winter Wonderland" gingerbread house. About six students joined in for MCS.

SIS fifth-grade teacher Amie McRoberts said their five student competitors have chosen to do an island-style gingerbread house.

Reyes said the different departments at T Galleria are also competing for the best decorated Christmas tree.

The students will earn prize money. First place is $500, second is $400, third is $300, fourth is $200 and fifth is $100.

"So everybody is a winner in the gingerbread house contest. For the Christmas tree contest, if they win, the money would go to any non-profit organization that they choose," Reyes said.

Season's Greetings!
A Christmas message from the Commonwealth Cancer Association.
Our wish for the New Year is that you will find the time to take care of your health by discussing with your medical care provider your risk for cancer.
We also invite you to give yourself and your loved ones a gift this Christmas season: "Get your free visual screening for Oral Cancer at any of the dental clinics on Saipan. Just give one of the clinics a call to find out when's the best time for you to walk in".
CCA Board of Directors and Staff:
Merry Christmas and a Joyous, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

Manglona dismisses lawyer's counterclaims against Hillbroom

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed all six counterclaims filed by attorney Barry J. Israel against his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom.

In an order on Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice Israel's counterclaims for indemnification, partial equitable indemnification, contribution, breach of contract, quantum meruit, and money had and received.

Manglona

Dismissed with prejudice means Israel cannot re-file the counterclaims anymore.

In the 11-page order, Manglona ruled that all six of the lawyer's counterclaims are dismissed for failure to state a claim on which relief can be granted.

Therefore, the judge said, there is no need to decide whether the counterclaims are compulsory and relate back to 2009, when Hillbroom first brought the lawsuit against Israel.

The Vietnam-based Israel and Guam lawyer David J. Lujan used to serve as counsels for Hillbroom in the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom's probate matter in Superior Court. Hillbroom is the DNA-proven son of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters in 1995.

Approximately $100 million in assets were distributed to Hillbroom in the settlement of the probate case for Hillblom estate.

Since Hillbroom was a minor at the time of the settlement, the Junior Larry Hillbroom Trust was created for him.

Hillblom is suing Israel and Lujan for allegedly conspiring with Keith Waibel, trustee of JLH Trust, to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Israel filed counterclaims against Hillbroom and Waibel. He alleges that Hillbroom's lawsuit is part of a shakedown scheme by Hillbroom and Waibel to mask their own mismanagement and dissipation of trust assets by falsely accusing the lawyers of fraud.

Israel asserts that if he is found liable, Hillbroom and Waibel should have to indemnify him for any sums he is forced to pay them.

Hillbroom, through counsel Graham Lippsmith, moved to dismiss Israel's counterclaims.

In her order, Manglona said Israel fails to state a claim for indemnification, partial equitable indemnification, and contribution because the claim has not accrued and cannot be maintained against Hillbroom.

Manglona said the counterclaims for indemnity, partial equitable indemnity, and contribution have not yet accrued, because Israel has not yet discharged a liability.

The judge said because Israel's liability, if any, has yet to be determined and he has not had to pay damages, he does not presently have a right of contribution.

Manglona said even if Israel had already discharged a liability, these three counterclaims against Hillbroom would fail to state a claim.

"The indemnification, partial equitable indemnification, and contribution claims are fatally flawed, because Junior [Hillbroom] can never be a third party in this action," the judge said.

Manglona said Israel also fails to state a claim against Hillbroom for breach of contract, quantum meruit, or money had and received.

Manglona said that in 2003 the Larry L. Foundation sold to Israel its interest in Danao Holdings International, an unliquidated asset jointly owned by the Foundation and the JLH Trust.

The judge said in exchange for the JLH Trust's interest in the Danao investment, Israel gave up his right to be paid the contingency fee on the future sale of any unliquidated assets or on payments or distributions.

"Whether on a breach of contract theory, in quantum meruit, or for money had and received, Israel asserts that Junior [Hillbroom] [as well as Waibel] is liable to him for the contingency fee subsequent to the sale of Danao," Manglona said.

On breach of contract issue, Manglona said in consideration for giving up his right to his share of the JLH Trust Fee Agreement contingency fee, Israel purchased the Trust's interest in Danao.

"For that reason, Israel has failed to make out a breach-of-contract claim that is plausible on its face," she said.

On quantum meruit claim, Israel claims that he is entitled to the reasonable value of services he performed in carrying out his duties for the JLH Trust.

Quantum meruit determines the amount to be paid for services when no contract exists or when there is doubt as to the amount due for the work performed but done under circumstances when payment could be expected.

Manglona said Israel's quantum meruit claim is based upon the same facts and seeks the same recovery as his breach-of-contract claim.

"It therefore fails for the same reason," Manglona pointed out.

On money had and received claim, Israel asserts that 38 percent of any income to the JLH Trust subsequent to the sale of Danao is money had and received for Israel's use and benefit.

Manglona said Israel has failed to allege a specific amount that Hillbroom owes him.

"Therefore, the claim for money had and received is facially deficient," she said.

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TRENCH

From Page 1

terview yesterday.

Researchers aboard the R/V Falkor explored life in what is called the "hadal zone," which comprises some of the least explored and greatest depths in the ocean. The zone begins at about 6,000 meters and drops down the Challenger Deep, nearly 11,000 meters under the sea.

"The deep sea is generally unexplored," Drazen said. "We have better maps of the surface of the moon than we do of the bottom of the ocean."

Trench research can be "very, very challenging," because of pressure from the distance to the surface of the sea, according to Drazen. For this research, they used landers—platforms that hold sampling equipment like cameras, baited trap, metal grabs, or cores.

Drazen said there were a lot of custom-made titanium housing and customized cameras and sensors, as well as "the first very deep oxygen sensors in the world" on some of their gear.

The engineering, according to Drazen, helped researchers sample the hadal life that they discovered was "fascinating and rich."

"I think some of the mistakes some scientists have made in the past is they have charged to the deepest part of the trenches. There's actually not as much there as in many other places," he said, recalling director James Cameron's 2010 expedition in the trench where Cameron drove straight down the Challenger Deep for 20 or 30 minutes, and eventually described it as a "monotonous plain of mud," according to Drazen.

"We took a very different approach. We sampled the sides of the trenches. That's where all the action is. …The camera systems saw boulder fields, and some crazy Dr. Seuss-like sponges, and a really diverse array and abundant groups of fishes."

Ethereal fish

The researchers also discovered a new species of snailfish.

"You can see right through the body," Drazen said of the snailfish. "You can see their liver, their bones."

In their discovery, researchers broke the deepest record of fish several times; the first time at 7,900 meters, the last at 8,143 meters.

They recorded the fish accidentally, according to Drazen, through a task camera intended to check on the functionality of equipment.

Technicians first saw the fish, he said, and called the fish biologists over.

"We sat down and they played it for us. And as it swam into the field of view, we just were totally surprised. Not that there was fish, but just at what it was. It looked so different than any other fish that we knew of in the hadal zone, or anywhere else in the deep sea."

"We knew it was a new species immediately," he added. Footage of the "ethereal" and ghost-like snailfish can be viewed online.

Scientists looked for the fish as far as 8,300 meters but did not observe them there, according to Drazen. The furthest they saw the fish was at 8,143 meters, he said, and none were found at 8,200 m.

This, according to Drazen, lined up with the hypothesis of another scientist on board which basically said that no fish live beyond 8,400 meters deep as they are not molecularly suited to survive those deep pressures.

Researchers were able to catch several dozens of the shallower snailfish species but not of the deeper, newly discovered one. From what they have, scientists will study the fish to see what they eat, and how old they are.

Drazen said they would know more in the coming months.

'Giant beach fleas'

Scientists also caught giant amphipods—as large as 30 cm—that to average beachgoers may look like beach flies, according to Drazen.

They deployed 30 baited traps that also caught fish and shrimp, he said.

The samples revealed a surprising discovery about the physiology of the amphipods, as they were composed mostly of liquid, according to Drazen.

"We opened them up and it was all liquid inside. It was like they were hollow. We had to scrounge to find little bits of muscle. There is almost nothing in them. We're still trying to find out why that is. We're not entirely sure."

Right now, their leading hypothesis is that these arthropods have evolved to become significantly large so that predators would not eat them, according to Drazen.

"One adaption to become very successful in this kind of environment, we think, is you become very large so you can't fit in these predators' mouths any longer. But you don't want to just get big and pay all the energetic costs of growing large. So we think they build their skeleton up and they don't put very much inside of it," he said.

The secondary advantage of this adaptation is that amphipods can "gorge" themselves if they find dead fish on the seafloor, Drazen said.

"If we actually caught some of these amphipods that had been feeding on bait for hours and hours on end, my guess is that they would have a gigantic gut just full of bait."

Muscles were found along their skeleton shell, a digestive tract and stomach near the center, and a nerve network and brain around the head of the animal, according to Drazen.

But he emphasized that more detailed study must be done.

"I don't know what [the inner fluid] is composed of," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From Page 1

House Bill 18-216, HS1 unanimously passed, with all eight senators present saying yes to the measure. Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent.

HB 18-216, HS1 instructs the Department of Public Lands to "immediately transfer" at least $5 million to MPLT.

MPLT will then loan $5 million to the CNMI government at an interest rate of not less than 7 percent per annum to used to satisfy the Commonwealth's obligation under its settlement agreement with EPA.

Under the settlement agreement with EPA, the CNMI must deposit $5 million by Dec. 31, 2014, into the U.S. District Court for the NMI's court registry.

Other court-mandated payments to settle the CNMI government's agreement with EPA are as follows:

- $2,800,000 no later than Feb. 1, 2015;
- $5 million no later than Feb. 1, 2016;
- $5 million no later than Feb. 1, 2017; and
- $5 million no later than Feb. 1, 2018.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher and legal counsel James Sirok attended the hearing yesterday to voice their opposition to a particular provision of HB 18-216, HS1crediting the $5 million used to satisfy the government's agreement with EPA to settle outstanding arrears of the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Fletcher said it doesn't consider the $5 million as payment to the outstanding debt of PSS and CHCC since the "money goes directly to the court." He said the utility company cannot simply "write off" some of the government's debt because it deposits $5 million that will be used for CUC projects.

HB 18-216, HS1, which passed the House of Representatives last Dec. 18, now goes to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' desk for approval.

CELEBRATE

From Page 1

one is celebrating one of the most anticipated moments of the year: the Christmas holidays. Everywhere you go, the reminders of the Christmas season are abundant: trees and buildings adorned with ornaments and lights, children singing time-honored carols, and people reveling in family traditions. As we prepare to celebrate this holiday season, let us be thankful for all the blessings we received throughout the year," Inos' Christmas message read.

Inos and Hofschneider also reminded everyone to look back at the year that has passed as well as remember loved ones that have passed as well.

"Let us also remember the memories that we have shared with loved ones who left us this year, along with those who go out of their way to ensure that we celebrate in peace and security. Let us not forget to share these very same blessings afforded us with those who are less fortunate this time of year. Give them the greatest gift of all: the warmth of the true spirit of giving and love."

Inos said everyone should celebrate the holidays with loved ones.

"Jude and I wish you all the peace and joy of this holiday season and urge all of you to celebrate joyfully with loved ones. May the good Lord continue to bless you with health and happiness as we prepare to welcome a new year with a renewed resolve to make the next 365 days more rewarding than the last. May your holidays be filled with peace, love, and hope."

Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) echoed the message of Inos and Hofschneider.

"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There's lot of things to grateful about and that's our Lord and our safety. It's a time of the year to be spent with family. Enjoy and be safe," he said following the Senate session yesterday on Capital Hill.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) wished everyone a blessed Christmas and said all should look forward to the coming New Year.

"Christmas is a blessed day for those of us who are Christians. This is the day that God came to live among us and begin our salvation. So we are profoundly grateful at this time of year. But for all of us, no matter our faith, this season at the end of another year is a time to look back and reflect on all that we have and have accomplished, and to be grateful. And, of course, this is the time to look forward to the New Year."

He said his entire family wishes everyone in the Northern Marianas a joyous holiday season.

"So to one and all in the Northern Mariana Islands I say *Felis Pasgua yan Ano Nuebo* from myself, my family, and all the staff at the congressional office."

CW1

From Page 1

The hotel is the largest private employer on Tinian.

The CNMI Senate adopted a resolution yesterday requesting USCIS to reconsider its decision to deny nearly 200 CW petitions made by Tinian Dynasty.

"The blanket denial of all 197 CW-1 petitions involving 693 beneficiaries employed at Tinian Dynasty without any opportunity to cure any defects is contrary to the clear intent of the CNRA to minimize the potential adverse and fiscal effects of phasing-out nonresidents," reads the Senate resolution.

The CNRA, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2009, extended U.S. immigration controls to the CNMI and created the five-year transitional CW program that was subsequently extended to 2019 by U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez in June 2014.

Tinian Dynasty's new owner, Mega Stars Overseas, Ltd., said they appreciate the gesture from the Senate.

"We appreciate the Senate's quick action in adopting a resolution in support of our situation," said Liu.

The Senate resolution also noted that the USCIS' denial of CW-1 petitions affecting 693 beneficiaries would cause Tinian Dynasty to shut down and close its doors to tourists at a time when the CNMI's tourism industry is on the rebound.

That closure will have a tremendous effect on Tinian's economy, which solely relies on revenues from the casino to stay afloat.

Tinian Dynasty, the resolution reads, annually spends about $8.5 million in payroll, $1.4 million in business gross revenue tax, $735,055 in FICA remittances, nearly $2.4 million in gaming tax to the Tinian local government, $439,000 on EWR, $588,914 on hotel room tax, $25,444 on bar tax, $3.6 million on Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billings, $3.7 million on suppliers, $975,000 on Star Marianas Air services, and $600,000 on Mobil Oil Marianas.

"The hotel and casino closure will have an astronomical negative impact on the island of Tinian and its economy as well as the CNMI in general… the adverse economic impact of Tinian Dynasty's closure will be an enormous financial loss considering how much annually it expends to operate…"

The resolution further noted that Tinian Dynasty shuttering its doors would displace current employees and their families.

"Men, women, and children will be forced to leave their existing homes and return to their countries where jobs are scarce or nonexistent. Many employees have U.S. citizen children who will be uprooted from the only life they have known since birth."

The Senate resolution added that Tinian Dynasty's previous owner made numerous mistakes and is still involved in litigation regarding such mistakes. However, it said the new owner, Mega Stars, has paid its dues and desires to continue doing business on Tinian and the CNMI.

"Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. purchased Tinian Dynasty in 2013 and has invested over $40 million to cure all legal and financial difficulties of the previous owner, including paying back wages of employees and taxes owed to the government. Mega Stars is committed to Tinian and its people and will continue to be a good partner by providing much needed revenue and employment opportunities."

In an interview after the passage of the resolution, Sen. Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian) implored USCIS to reconsider its decision denying the CW-1 petitions of Tinian Dynasty.

"That is really a drastic move. When they passed the CNRA, one of the comments there is that it does not affect the CNMI economically. But what they're doing now is going to affect Tinian," he said.

The chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation did confirm that Tinian Dynasty and Mega Stars have not lost hope and are talking with USCIS to find a solution to the matter.

"There still trying to appeal and find ways. I also want to talk to Congressman Kilili [Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan] to discuss this issue. I know he's on island but before he leaves I want to talk to him and see what he can do."

Borja said if the CW workers do leave, it would cripple Tinian Dynasty, forcing its closure and that may lead to Tinian suffering economically.

KAGMAN

From Page 2

Last Wednesday, Deleon Guerrero forwarded an email to Sablan to begin the procurement process for bus shelters, road bumps and a basketball court at the Kagman Community Center.

Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that Gov. Eloy Inos has already signed Saipan Local Law 18-22, appropriating up to $90,000 for Precinct 5 infrastructure improvement projects.

Deleon Guerrero also cited another appropriation bill signed by Inos that sets aside $34,000 for bus shelters and speed bumps in Precinct 5.

Deleon Guerrero said he is thinking of using the $90,000 to pave Pepega Drive, which connects to Pine Drive and Chopak Drive.

"Kagman has a lot of roads that need to be paved. The problem with this is that when Pine Drive was up for pavement, it did not include Pepega Drive so it would help out a lot because it would interconnect Pine Drive and Chopak Drive," he said.

Another project that Deleon Guerrero seeks to complete is the basketball court at Kagman Community Center.

Mayor-elect Atalig: Collaboration is key to Rota's future

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

It is the oldest conversation on Rota—people talking about change—but seldom does the community see the great ideas of elected officials materialize or the promises made during the campaign trail fulfilled.

Mayor-elect Efraim M. Atalig hopes to strip the island's government of that stigma by collaborating with residents, departments, and agencies to ameliorate the quality of life of islanders in the next four years.

"Saying we will do things now is not enough, doing is what matters," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his Rota transition office. "Let's make it happen."

So what exactly does the soon-to-be mayor want to happen? From addressing the unemployment crisis to establishing a trade school, Atalig said that by collaborating with his administration, locals can expect to come out of the next four years stronger and better.

With the GOP dominating the island's leadership, services and legislations will be "brought to the people quicker," Atalig explained. "Because of the GOP majority in office, it will be easier to get stuff signed and accomplished."

Addressing Rota's issues

Gas prices in the United States have seen a dramatic drop to $1.99 per gallon. In the past month, members of the Rota community have paid for gas thrice the amount of the U.S price.

In recent months, the price of gas dropped from $6.15 to $6.10 and is now $5.25.

Atalig plans to ease the suffering of people engendered by the exorbitant gas price by implementing a salary increase when he comes into office. According to Atalig, the salary for government employees hasn't changes since 1995.

"Actually when you talk about fuel, there really is not much as a mayor you can do about that because it is being controlled by the market. These people decide based on the global market and there really isn't much you can do because that really isn't in your responsibility," he said. "That is the important thing and it gives us more reasons to increase the salary of the local employees."

The shipment of food to the island is also a topic of concern for the incoming mayor.

There has been dialogue amongst Rota leaders about the endorsement of the MV *Luta* shipping company, but the process was stalled by the delay of certification papers, according to Atalig.

"We have been talking about MV *Luta* for almost a year now," he said. "There is a lot of certification to make the ship available for passenger usage as well. In addition to this, we also need to improve the East Harbor and the facilities within the area."

» Mayor Mendiola allegedly not cooperating in transition process

Atalig and his committee have the establishment of a vocational trade school on Rota in the works as well. The mayor-elect's department heads met with Northern Marianas College representatives last week to discuss the idea.

With unemployment rates at an all time high on the southern island, Atalig said the formation of a trade school is imperative because it "develops a stronger labor force and opens opportunities for our kids."

"We have to give them opportunities to excel and decide a career for them rather than just going to college to get a degree. We have to provide options for our youth to increase their knowledge and talents in things like mechanics."

Atalig said that he will also work closely with the CNMI Public School System to create more programs to keep Rota youth off the streets and away from drugs and alcohol.

Introducing a new dental service on island and bringing in more medical professionals is another thing Atalig aspires to accomplish.

"I can't direct the board of the Rota Health Center, but I will sit down with them and see what I can do to help."

Although tourism is booming and is the No. 1 industry in the CNMI, the story is different for the Rota community. With the cancellation of flights and limited airplane passenger capacity, several businesses on the island struggle to keep their doors open for the small number of visiting tourists.

Atalig plans to work with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo to support airlines, such as Star Marianas, that want to increase seat capacity and flights to the island.

"I will talk with Guam and work with the airport authority to provide the airline company space to operate in Guam as well," he said.

Although Atalig is optimistic about the tourism industry on island, he noted that the agriculture business is something he will be looking into to help boost Rota's financial state.

"We cant just depend on tourism. We must diversify our abilities as a community."

Rota's only dumping site in Tatachog also has residents sounding off. The site, overflowing with mountains of trash, has remained in poor shape and government officials have done little to address the issue.

According to Atalig, the responsibility of maintaining the dumping site falls on the shoulders of the Department of Public Work's Solid Waste division.

"These employees are hired, but they are not doing their job," he added." I am going to go to these people and tell them that they must fulfill the responsibility that they were given in the first place."

A representative of Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality on Rota told *Saipan Tribune* that he visited the Tatachog dumping site and found it overflowing with trash and not in compliance with regulations. They took various photos of the dumping area and said that the organization in charge of maintenance is not managing the site well.

Atalig

The representative also found that a substantial amount of land could be cleared for expansion, but DPW fails to do so.

Stricter management of all departments is what Atalig said he will strongly carry out in his administration.

With a full agenda for his term as mayor, Atalig said the transition process has been frustrating because of the lack of cooperation from current Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola.

Atalig said that inquiries and requests from his transition committee have all been rejected by the staff of Mendiola.

"This is not about me or him, this is about our people. We want to have a smooth and proper transition but he is not cooperating," Atalig said. "However, I am still in good spirits."

Twenty-eight people currently make up Atalig's transition team and 82 employees are expected to be hired under the new administration.

Atalig said that on his first day on the job, he will gather his staff and visit the different departments on island in order to foster an atmosphere where employees feel free and respected, not intimidated.

Atalig served as former mayor Benjamin T. Manglona's chief of staff for six years in 1997. Before pursuing the position of the island's next mayor, he resigned as chief of staff for Mayor Melchor Mendiola two years into his appointment.

Ex-convict is found using 'ice' again

An ex-convict who was required to speak to school children about the dangers of drug use as part of his probation has tested positive for the use of methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola has notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Justin A. Funkugub signed an admission form indicating that he used "ice" on Oct. 20, 2014.

Arriola said that Funkugub tested presumptive positive for "ice" use during a random drug test at Marianas Counseling Services.

When confronted with the results, Funkugub denied using the drug so the sample was sent to a laboratory for confirmation testing. The laboratory's report indicated that "ice" was present in the sample, Arriola said.

At a non-compliance meeting on Nov. 4, Funkugub apologized for not being up front about his drug use. He admitted that he used "ice" last Oct. 20.

Arriola said they admonished Funkugub for his behavior and warned him about the possibility that his probation would be revoked if his drug use continues. Arriola said no court action is needed at this time but that Funkugub will be closely monitored and any additional non-compliance will be reported to the court.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Funkugub in November 2012 to 24 months in prison for the offense of felon in possession of a firearm. Funkugub was given credit for 40 days of time served. After serving the prison term, he was placed on supervised release for three years.

Funkugub was found in possession of a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber snub-nosed revolver that had an obliterated serial number. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Lil' Expressions moves to Dandan

The newest toy store on Saipan, Lil' Expressions, has moved from Gualo Rai to Dandan, according to its owner, Jenny Deleon Guerrero.

She said the move had to be made after its previous location, in front of the golf driving range, is being developed into a low-income housing project by Ironwood Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero said Lil' Expressions is now located at the RJ Plaza Building in Dandan, right across Joeten Shopping Center and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. main office.

Lil' Expressions had been open for a year before shuttering its doors for the relocation in July. It opened its new Dandan location (the former Konbetsa Café) on Dec. 6 by offering 15-percent off on selected merchandise.

Deleon Guerrero said what sets Lil' Expressions apart from other toy stores on island is the personal touch she provides to all customers.

"I have loyal customers already because I really make an effort get to know their kids and what they're interested in. When they come in I already know the names of their kids and know what their tastes are," she said.

Among the hot-selling toys for girls at Lil' Expressions are Sophia the First, Ever After High, and new lines of Monster High, while the toy store's lineup for boys include Imaginex, Mega Blocks, Matchbox, and Star Wars light sabers, among others.

"We have more toys for girls because toys for boys require a lot of batteries and I don't really want to carry those kind of toys like remote-controlled cars. Look at how much batteries cost! It costs a lot and they don't last long," said Deleon Guerrero.

She said she opened Lil' Expressions because toys are her passion and wanted island residents to have a more affordable alternative to bigger toy retailers on Saipan.

"My stuff is going really fast so I encourage those doing their last minute shopping for toys to come by my store," she said.

Lil' Expressions is open Wednesdays, Thursday, and Fridays from 4pm to 9pm and Saturday from 10am to 6pm. Deleon Guerrero, however, said that store hours might be longer the last couple of days before Christmas. For more information, call Lil' Expressions at 234-8747. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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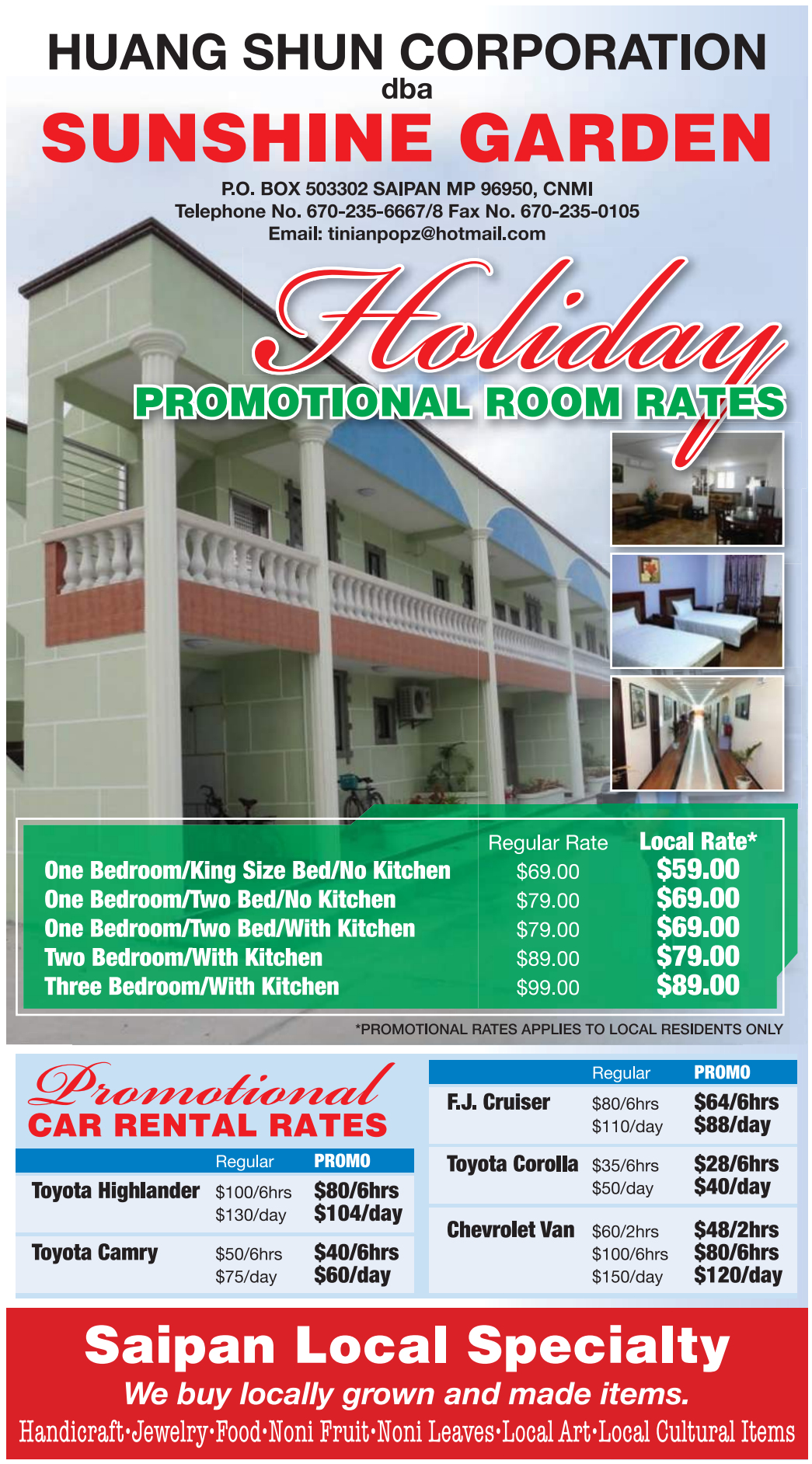
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Commerce to start prevailing wage survey in January

The much needed prevailing wage survey to enable local business to successfully petition H1 visas for their employees will finally be conducted next month, according to Department of Commerce acting secretary Mark Rabauliman.

He said U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs would be funding the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study.

"We're able to get funding for the prevailing wage survey from the OIA. We will start the survey either the first or second week of January," Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Central Statistics Division under director Alfonsis Sound has been assigned to spearhead the study.

"The OIA grand funding proposal's timeline is for 60 days for enumerators to conduct the survey and we have eight people assigned to do the study on Saipan and two each for Tinian and Rota," said Rabauliman.

Among the questions that will be asked in the survey will relate to job description, the going rate for that job, and the type of benefits received by the employee of that certain job.

"They're finalizing the questionnaires and will accommodate the pending questions and uncertainties out there that people need to make sound decisions," said the acting Commerce secretary.

Rabauliman has set a March deadline for CSD to submit the prevailing wage survey.

Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, meanwhile, said that unlike in 2013 when both the Chamber and Commerce conducted two separate surveys, the islands' biggest business organization this time would be depending on the government to do the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study by itself.

"It's being conducted by the CNMI government as it should be. It should be a government function. OIA is funding the survey and they're only funding one. We we're going to fund one but when Commerce informed us they we're going to conduct one, we thought why do two? We saw no reason to spend on two surveys which is going to accomplish the same thing," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said the CNMI developing its own prevailing wage study is important because using the prevailing wage in Guam is unfair and detrimental to the local economy.

"It's crucial at a standpoint that we have a different economy here than that of Guam. The wages for an H1 employee in the CNMI is segued to Guam's prevailing wage, which is much, much higher. Our economy is different than Guam and the wage scale is different regardless of the situation. We have a different economy and we need to determine what scale we have so companies won't inadvertently be impacted here with a scale that has no relevance."

The Chamber president said the only way the CNMI can have access to more H1 workers is for the prevailing wage and workforce assessment study to be conducted every two years as required by the federal government.

"It's not that we don't want to pay people more money. Hopefully that happens as the local economy improves. That's the point behind a true prevailing wage being done. We can't sustain it if we segue to the prevailing wages in Guam or Hawaii."

The lack of an updated prevailing wage was one of the hot-button issues during last week's Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's 2014 Annual Conference.

Local companies argued that as much as they would want to apply H1 visas to their qualified employees, the lack of a prevailing wage study has stymied their efforts. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 24, 2007

Many workers opting to stay

Many alien workers of garment factories that are closing down are opting to remain in the CNMI to look for jobs, according to Labor records. Rose Ada-Hocog of the Labor Administrative Hearing Office cited the case of garment manufacturer L&S that will be shutting down effective Dec. 31, 2007. Of its 108 alien workers, only five to six have already returned to China, Ada-Hocog said. During last week's Labor hearing, 44 were granted a request to transfer to new employers. Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll gave the 44 alien workers 45 days from Jan. 1, 2008, to submit applications for transfer to new employers. "These workers may transfer to non-garment jobs if qualified," Soll said.

8 charges filed vs 2 alleged 'ice' distributors

The Attorney General's Office filed yesterday eight charges against two alleged distributors of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan. Chuan Ming Wang, 35, and Qun Yu, 41, are facing eight charges related to the trafficking of a controlled substance. In addition, Yu was charged with one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance. Chief Prosecutor Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. stated in the charging information that on Dec. 5, 12, and 14, 2007 Wang and Yu conspired to deliver "ice" in exchange for money. Warfield said the defendants engaged in trafficking of "ice" and were found in possession of the illegal drugs on Dec. 5, 12, and 14, 2007. The chief prosecutor said that, on Dec. 14, 2007, Yu was found in possession of "ice." Authorities arrested Wang and Yu early last week.

December 24, 2002

DPS reports new child sexual abuse case

A former airport police was accused of sexually abusing a child when his 12-year-old victim told her father that the suspect orally and sexually molested her on four separate occasions. The 12-year-old victim tagged Marvin DLG Concepcion as the culprit, just moments after the latest molestation incident occurred around 10:19 Sunday night at the Coral Ocean Point beach site. The victim's father, in a complaint filed with the police, narrated that the suspect is a frequent visitor at his house as he is a former tenant in the As Lito area. On Sunday night, the suspect visited the victim's house again and picked her up along the road. The suspect then drove to the Coral Ocean Point beach site where she alleged that she was molested.

Man allegedly stabs ex-girlfriend

A 26-year-old woman who tried to stop her former boyfriend from hurting her baby was stabbed twice in the chest and back during a fight Saturday morning in Koblerville. The victim, Gina V. Aldan, sustained two stab wounds: one on her front chest, with the wound believed to have pierced her lungs; and the other on the back, which is about two inches deep. Aldan was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center where she is now being treated and kept under observation. Police immediately booked the suspect, Joe N. Atalig, 25, for attempted murder. He is now detained at the Division of Correction after his immediate family voluntarily surrendered him to authorities Saturday afternoon. Superior Court Judge Edward Manibusan set no bail for his temporary release.

December 24, 2011

No funding identified yet to build Koblerville Junior High

A funding source has yet to be identified by both the Public School System and the Executive Branch in order to build another middle school on Saipan, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan in her report to the Board of Education on Thursday. This comes even as the government has already acquired a property in Koblerville for the school's permanent location. Sablan disclosed that she, along with some members of her leadership team, including financial consultant Ed Tenorio, federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, and CIP committee chair Lucy Blanco Maratita, recently met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to talk about the ongoing preliminary efforts for the project.

Man in domestic violence case gets 5-day sentence

A man who was arrested for two incidents of domestic violence at the house of his girlfriend's mother in As Matuis has pleaded guilty plea and was slapped with a five-day prison term.

In an order last week, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Ernest M. Camacho to one year in prison, all suspended except for five days, for pleading guilty to the offense of disturbing the peace.

Naraja gave the 24-year-old Camacho credit for five days of time served. That means the defendant immediately goes free. He was, however, placed on probation for two years.

Camacho was ordered to pay a $500 fine, $225 in probation and court assessment fees, and $338 in restitution to the victim's mother.

Camacho was required to perform 100 hours of community service and is prohibited from harassing, assaulting or threatening the victim.

During the probationary period, the defendant is also prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with the victim's parents. He was required to undergo anger management counseling.

For pleading guilty to disturbing the peace, assistant attorney general Shannon Foley moved to dismiss the remaining charges. The court granted the motion.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Camacho went to the residence of his girlfriend on Dec. 17, 2013, on Saipan and started banging on the window and screen door with his closed fist while shouting profanities at her.

The window broke. The girlfriend was crying, frightened and scared that Camacho might beat her up.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that when the incident happened, the victim's mother, who was at work at the time, asked her daughter to put her on speakerphone. The mother then shouted at Camacho to leave the house.

When police arrived, Camacho was arrested.

Pangelinan said that during a prior incident that occurred on Oct. 26, 2013, Camacho pinned his girlfriend to the floor and choked her. The detective said a neighbor came and shouted at Camacho to stop. She said the defendant then hid behind the curtain of the window.

Pangelinan said in that incident, the victim did not press charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Public warned of high surf until Friday

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, strong trade wind conditions will produce hazardous surf and seas of 9 to 12 feet for the next couple of days.

A small craft advisory is now in effect through early Friday morning. Northeast winds of 20 to 25 knots with gusts of up to 30 knots and combined seas of 9 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft for the next few days.

A high surf advisory is also in effect from 6am Wednesday to 6am Friday. Surf along east facing shores of 8 to 11 feet will build to hazardous levels of 9 to 13 feet by Wednesday morning. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels on Friday.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along east facing reefs, as rip currents are life threatening.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. ***(HSEM)***

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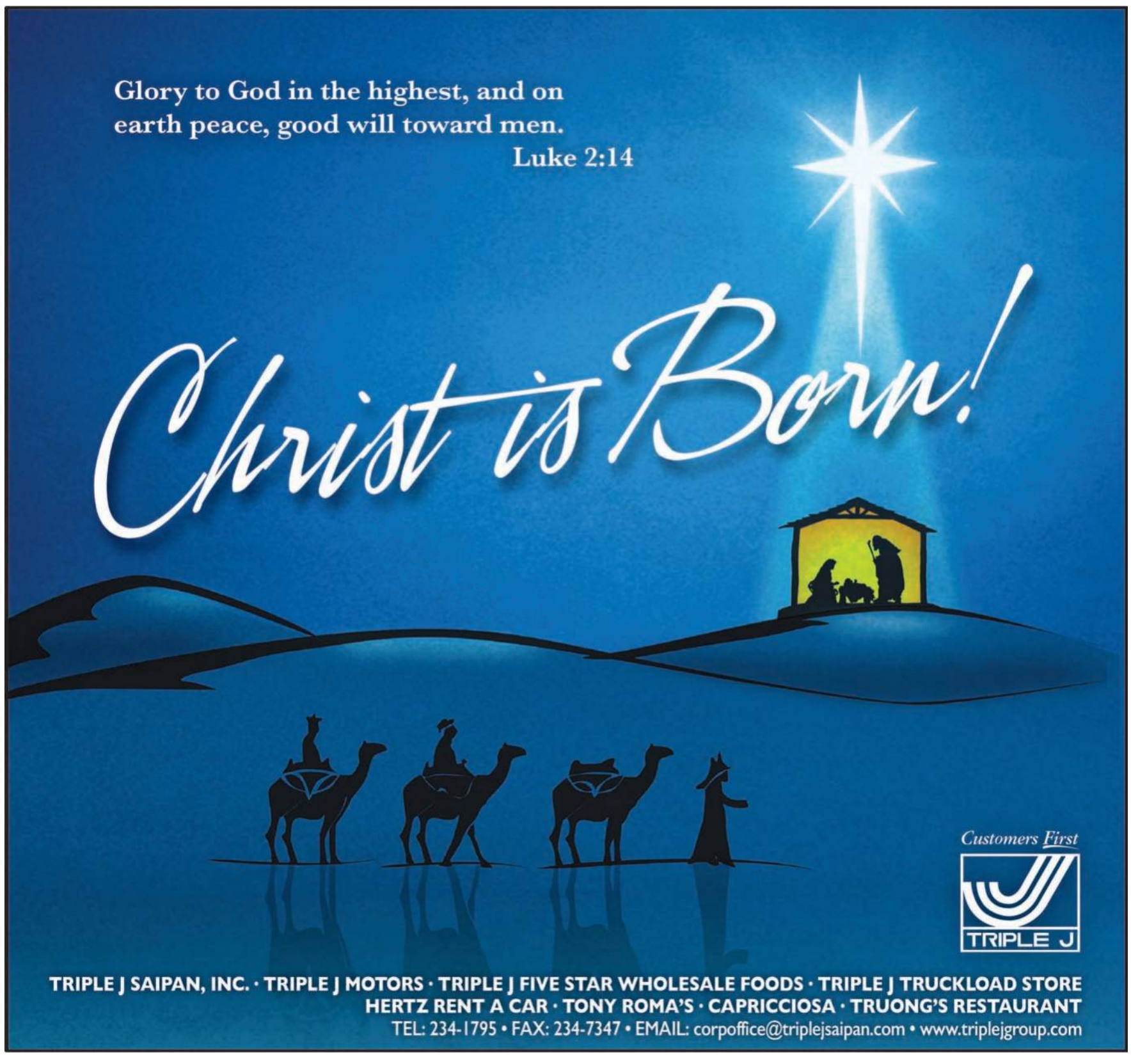
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Ukraine should put Russia to Donbas test

By RAJAN MENON and ALEXANDER J. MOTYL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ukraine is now strong enough to seize the initiative to create a lasting cease-fire in its Donbas Rust Belt, currently occupied by Russia and its proxies. And Russia may be weak enough to be receptive. It is in Kiev's interest to do so. A state of permanent war with Russia would damage Ukraine's democracy, economy and security.

Almost imperceptibly, the tide seems to have turned in Ukraine's favor. The Ukrainian army has been able to withstand daily attacks by Russian troops. Ukraine's October parliamentary elections produced a pro-Western majority, and its technocratic government appears poised for radical reforms.

By contrast, the Russian economy is in deep trouble from plummeting oil prices and the bite of sanctions. Many Russians have died fighting in the Donbas enclave. And Russian President Vladimir Putin is increasingly isolated internationally.

Western pundits debate whether Russia's troubles make it more amenable to a political settlement in Ukraine or more aggressive. This question won't be resolved in argument. Russian intentions need to be put to the test.

Ukraine can devise such a test in a way that enables it to retain the political high ground while strengthening its security and prospects for economic reform. But first, Kiev must accept some uncomfortable realities.

Neither Crimea nor the two separatist pro-Russia republics in the Donbas area will return to Ukraine's fold anytime soon, if ever. Ukraine lacks the military and financial resources to retake them, and any move to do so would not get Western backing and could even erode American and European support for Ukraine.

Kiev should therefore act as if these breakaway eastern regions are no longer part of Ukraine. It's starting to do just that, as seen in its recent decision to end subsidies, pensions, veterans' benefits and postal and banking services to the Donbas statelets.

However, Kiev should not recognize these regions as belonging to Russia. That would be political suicide for a nascent government facing multiple challenges and it would be a needless gift to Moscow. Nor should Kiev say anything definitive about the territories' final status. Instead, Ukraine should keep its future options open while ceding responsibility for their economic upkeep to Russia.

Disengaging itself from Crimea and the Donbas enclave benefits Ukraine. These regions have been anti-reform, anti-Western, pro-Russia bastions since Ukraine's independence. Their detachment makes radical reform in Ukraine possible and deprives Russia of an important means for meddling in Ukrainian politics. So what looks like a loss is in fact a gain.

Moreover, industrial production in the Donbas enclave has fallen 80 percent, and coal mines, factories and infrastructure have been severely damaged. Kiev would be wise to let Russia bear the burden of repairing the region's economy.

Once Kiev bites the bullet on Crimea and Donbas, it should present Russia with a workable peace plan for the latter region, where the continuing conflict could still spawn a wider war. The plan would have four components:

The creation of a 30-mile "no-forces zone," half of it west and half of it east of the current line of fighting.

The introduction of third-party peacekeepers and observ-

See UKRAINE on Next Page

A PEW POLL SAYS MORE THAN 75% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY...
AND ONLY 24% OF US TRUST IN OUR GOVERNMENT.
THAT MAKES SENSE.
OUR MONEY DOESN'T SAY "IN GOVERNMENT WE TRUST."
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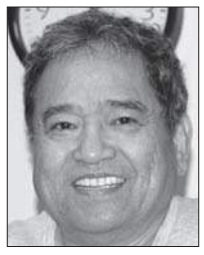
Mary's Child *pa ram pum pum pum*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



Regardless of which culture, the care of babies is inviolate. One of the lessons of the West African Ebola epidemic is the utter inability of many to be healthy enough to withstand the effects of an evolutionary viral occurrence. Eradicating a virus like Ebola is like eliminating TB and malaria germs, a futile exercise. What we need is not to stop a virus but to get human nutrition and living standards healthy enough to live with it.

A virus enables the evolutionary process to cross genetic lines, and in the case of the Ebola, a virus in the wild crosses over through bats, and perhaps other means, into the human RNA and DNA. We now know that some humans are more susceptible than others to the downside effects of the virus.

So the language of fighting the virus and eliminating it is a hangover of a mindset that sees what did not fit before as an enemy to be banished; a new condition is upon us that requires us to adapt. We would do better to focus on adequate nutrition and hygienic surroundings for everyone!

Yakov ibn Nazareth, Iesu Kristo, and Jesus the Christ to the contemporary faithful is established on the anchor data of existence, like the rest of the human race. He died. An ignominious death, crucified on a cross between two thieves in a telling that was so powerful that it pushed his followers to create a universal story true for all and all time from Genesis to Apocalypse.

I was born into a storyteller's household within the Methodist covenant. A three-act drama began with a prelude of an incarnation from above to earth, then Act I of life as an ordinary human, Act II as one deciding to expend his life to the way life is, YHWH, a pious reference to life's reality and mystery, and Act III, when the lifestyle of obedience to YHWH is a costly enterprise unto death, bookended in the story by the resurrection event that sent him back to heaven, to the bosom of Abraham!

This was a neat overlay on an older story that saw humanity disadvantaged at the gate *(dejado)*, and thereby needed to be liberated, like the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt, or redeemed from the Zoroastrian eternal battle between good and evil where humanity always found itself captive of the demon, and/or in our time, saved from the clutches of one's own depravity, in the classic confession of Paul of Tarsus to the Romans: "For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."

In the name of this Jesus, many stories were created, including some cross-fertilized elsewhere other than the Levant. The one familiar to me is of the little child, *pa ram pum pum pum,* that emerged from Roman and Byzantium institutions to Zwingli and Calvin, Luther and Wesley of the Reformation movements, and now, post-Vatican II and contemporary theologizing enterprises.

When Thomas Malthus promoted "moral restraint" (a version of family planning) and calculated that the rate of population increase was way ahead of agricultural production, it meant as it means to today's IMF that there is not enough food to go around, making survival of the fittest a necessary ingredient justifying competition through capitalism; some were going to die anyway in order for others to live.

Wedded to the Christ's salvific role and added to Adam Smith's advocacy of minimal interference in the law of supply and demand, one understands Western economy; "democracies" latched on to the *Wealth of Nations.*

In a reprise of Band Aid's *"Do they know it's Christmas?"* by Bob Geldof, originally performed for Ethiopia 30 years ago, now for the assistance efforts in Ebola-pocked nations, Africans are not pleased with the image not only of white folks coming to the aid of disease-ridden and pest-infested Africa, but of Christians in Islamic Africa bringing their Redeemer to save the unfortunate native Africans (read, Muslims) from their helplessness. It places Christians in an awkward position, with some ardent and overzealous members ripping off the Koran in public as part of their witness and bait for their "crucifixion"!

Obama immigration thrust focuses "on hopes rather than fears," clearly an ethos promoted in the name of the babe in the manger, which some sectors in America fail to understand other than the need to conform to the "letter of the law" and Boehner takes this to mean following established procedures other than executive decrees, including the tactic of withholding funds from the White House.

Of the three religions from the Levant, the Jews now insist on the Hebraic-ness of Eretz Israel; the warriors of the Iraqi-Syrian deserts are dubbed the Islamic State. We know that Jefferson made sure the federation was not going to adopt a state religion, but Eisenhower's "nation under God" understood itself as Christian, a light on a hill of exceptionalism.

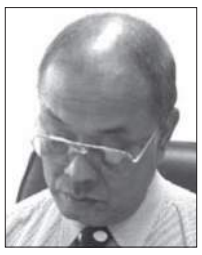
Shall I play for you
Pa rum pum pum pum
On my drum

Methinks Mary's Child would rather we do not beat the drum anymore. But we can still hum *pa ram pum pum pum*! Happy birthday, little one!

Beginning of 2015

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



There are issues of substance that are necessarily carryover of recent past we seem to have ignored after one too many sunshine toasts.

Administrative laws: There's "administrative procedure" the equivalence of laws crafted by bureaucrats in federal agencies whose drafts are implemented with finality nationwide—states and territories—none could reject.

In WSJ's Review and Outlook section of Dec. 5, former Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe calls "administrative procedure" an "extralegal exertion" or "legal scavenging" prohibited by the U.S. Constitution. Legislating is an authority solely the purview of the U.S. Congress.

The net result is the abuse of statutory law, violating the Constitution's Article I, Article II, the separation of powers, the Tenth and Fifth Amendments, and in general displaying contempt for the law. Tribe was Obama's professor of law at Harvard. He must have spent too much time at the law review and missed the part about limited powers, according to the article.

He pointed out that federal agencies have even deferred to its interpretation of federal laws with impunity. For instance, EPA has gone ahead imposing self-generated administrative laws that Tribe views as representing "an attempt to seize lawmaking power that belongs to Congress." He said, "There are genuine issues about the law and the democratic process at stake."

What's my point? Administrative procedure or laws were crafted by federal agencies, an extra legal exertion on legislative authority solely reserved for Congress. Moreover, it's an issue that we must critically review in that it's a perfect vehicle to dismantling the NMI's rights to self-government.

Health matters: Alarming the increase in kidney failure, adult onset diabetes, serious heart issues and spike in various cancers especially among young folks. A lot of young people are using cigarettes wedged in betel nut to get high. This leads to oral and other internal cancer.

Type II diabetes is another serious long-term illness that eventually leads to kidney failure and dialysis. There's genetics heart issues that must be addressed with a host of families who slide into it starting at age 50. One of the three or a combination of it is bad all the way around. It compromises healthy living and eats family savings one penny at a time.

Land alienation: We've heard on and off again discussions on Article 12 without clarity and finality. So the beast is back to haunt us some more. Let's define and review the old land tenure system versus what Article 12 did to landownership.

The old land tenure system protects your rights to individual landownership. Article 12 took it away from you and handed it to the NMI government. Do you recall surrendering such rights?

The conflict isn't the sale of land as much as the outright denial of your rights to landownership. It's your right as the property owner. Why would others be telling us what's good on an issue that is solely reserved to the landowner?

Saipan casino: This issue is now a matter of policy. Definitely, the law needs major overhaul to bring it home but this takes real political resolve and resolve seems a scarcity upstairs.

Two issues come into full view: 1.) CIP funds for the emplacement of requisite basic infrastructure like water, power, sewer and roads. 2.) The permitting process that includes land, immigration, environmental issues, among others. Use of public land over five hectares must be approved by the Legislature. Let's see the NMDs handle this aspect of the so-called indigenous land.

Like it or not the NMI can't survive under a single economy like tourism. Revenue from casino isn't etched in stone either. Its wellbeing hinges on a lot of issues including competition from nearby casino hub like Macau. Keep your fingers crossed that it works here.

Military land needs: The military eyes use of land for its divert airfield and ground exercises up north. These are properties outside the technical agreement under the Covenant. It would involve negotiations focusing on how much land is needed on an additional basis and lease fees.

Both sides must follow specific provisions in the Covenant Agreement on additional land for military purposes. Definitely, the military isn't ready to listen or engage disruptive groups who think they represent ALL landowners on its position. Not quite and I seriously doubt that it's a representative view of "we the people."

Revenue generation: Superficial political pride failed to shield the fiscal crisis at home. After all is said and done (inauguration), we'd be meeting somewhere nervously addressing the protracted progress of revenue generation that has gone south while needs skyrocket by leaps and bounds.

You could get certain data public or private source and use it to justify your views. Yet your intuition tells you an entirely different story or that nothing has improved in strides. It still is the same and is probably getting worse. How do you change this gut feeling being experienced by villagers?

Last fiscal year's budget was a measly $135 million and it's suspect that we would see anything in stride to bring it up to $150 million, if at all. Mirrored against a cumulative deficit of at least $4.8 billion, the prevailing revenue would slam into budgetary shortfall on every turn. The lack of anchor investments in the wings brings a fitting description of what lies ahead in William Faulkner's *Requiem for a Nun*, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." Budgetary shortfall turns into thematic redundancy or the new normal.

As the storm of the economic vacuum strengthens we would see disillusioned villagers learning painfully late that the promise didn't take them to the land filled with milk and honey. In fact, the long gestation period to perk up revenue generation is itself a major hurdle. Not discouraged either and ready to assist turn the gloom into boom where it is needed free of charge! *Felis Noche Buena!*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What went wrong in the first place?

The plan of correction that CHC is now saying only means that CHC had a plan addressing all of CMS' mandates all along, except that nothing worked well. So, this correcting plan is a work-in-progress timetable, and the general public is being assured by CHC the plan is to correct the elements in an unworkable plan. Now, we are being told that exercise in futility is a foregone conclusion because all administrative actions should fall in place, and key administrative staff team is actually organized and placed in-charge of the whole process.

The plan of plans is now shaping up as a productive economic measure, but we will never know what this is all about until CHC stipulates in simple and clear terms what was performed that went wrong and resulted in what it is today. In other words, we would never know what wrongs are being cured by the values of the right ways being addressed by the plan of corrections. So, what are the elements that CHC is correcting by way of the plan of corrections it says as the panacea to satisfy all doubts of CMS? If the plan of corrections is an economic platform, would it serve to avoid what CHC said it would be shorted by some $22 million if it stays the course without the plan of corrections? This sounds like an opportunity cost, and the CEO seems to be suggesting she is not the responsible party for all this mess.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

UKRAINE

From Page 10

ers to patrol the zone. The composition of the peacekeeping forces should be decided by the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with Ukraine and the separatist republics participating in the selection process.

The announcement of a symbolic pullback in certain areas--one that would not surrender any important assets but would demonstrate Ukraine's seriousness.

A pledge--lasting five years--to not apply to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

If the plan is accepted and works, the gains for Ukraine are obvious. It reduces the chances of an escalation in hostilities in the east. Russia's bona fides on peace would be tested. It creates an environment more conducive to economic reform.

The renunciation of NATO membership would make the plan particularly attractive to Russia without sacrificing anything of value to Kiev. The alliance won't admit Ukraine anytime soon, if at all, and its willingness to defend Ukraine is open to doubt.

Russia, and particularly Putin, would also benefit. Russia can ill afford another round of war as it faces a deep recession. More casualties--Russia may have lost as many as 4,000 soldiers in the last few months--would do no good for Putin's legitimacy or popularity. Cooperating with Ukraine would diminish Russia's isolation in the world.

Critics may charge that such an initiative is a cave-in to Putin's power plays and rewards Russian aggression. Nothing could be further from the truth. Ukraine would not be surrendering Crimea and Donbas, but merely acknowledging the current reality.

Ukraine needs peace if it is to initiate and sustain economic reforms, some of which will be painful. A permanent condition of war over territories that it lacks the wherewithal to regain and a preoccupation with membership in a security alliance that fears a military conflict with Russia makes no sense. Worse, war mortgages the well-being of 40 million Ukrainian citizens for the sake of a rhetorical, and presently undeliverable, commitment to the liberation of the 5 million in territories now under Russian control.

Ukraine has a unique opportunity to save itself. It should boldly seize it, test Russia's oft-proclaimed interest in peace and offer Putin a face-saving solution to his own woes.

Rajan Menon is a professor of political science in the Powell School at City College of New York and a senior research fellow at Columbia's Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies. He is coauthor of Ukraine in Conflict, to be published in February. Alexander Motyl is a professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark. His weekly blog, Ukraine's Orange Blues, appears on www.worldaffairsjournal.org. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LITERARY NOOK

Christmas on my mind

By JOEY "PEPE BATON" CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Twenty five short poems in honor of the celebration of Christmas, Dec. 25, 2014.

Haiku Hallelujah - A Sacred Christmas

donkeys bring them home
mighty Rome takes census now
madonna with child

cold Nazareth night
Magi follow yonder star
shining around the world

born in Bethlehem
no room at the local inn
a stable for birth

a love for mankind
is the greatest gift of all
Christ is born today

early in the morn
sheep, goats, dromedaries
gaze at the newborn babe

three in peace today

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
a holy family

angels sing above
they play on their harps all day
sing hallelujah

shepherds tend their flocks
wise men welcome a new king
in a barnyard

hear the angels sing
glory to the newborn king
peace on Earth to all

midnight in a church
chorus sings Hallelujah
and then Silent Night

love is all around
Merry Christmas everyone
Christmas Day is here

Haiku Ho! HO! Ho! - A Secular Christmas

green tree trimmed in red
Colorado blue spruce smell
fresh cut Christmas tree

strung with popcorn strings
twinkling lights on a big tree
hanging candy canes

chimney cleaned today
Santa Claus will come tonight
noise up on the roof

some treats for St. Nick
milk and a plate of cookies
hope he eats them all

sugar cookies gone
deer paw prints
in the snow on the lawn

mistletoe above
Dad underneath near the door
a kiss for Santa

still dark outside
everyone is waking up

no Grinch around here

Santa's helpers at work
baking goodies all day long
iced gingerbread boy

warm hats and mittens
making angels in the snow
sledding down the hill

Mike got a sweater
Mary got a pair of gloves
Mom got some candy

on Santa's lap
his breath smells like whiskey
he reads his long list

Charles Dicken's
'A Christmas Carol' on TV
Merry Christmas All

Contemporary Christmas Coda

in homes, churches, cyberspace
people and preachers pray for
PEACE IN the MIDDLE EAST

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

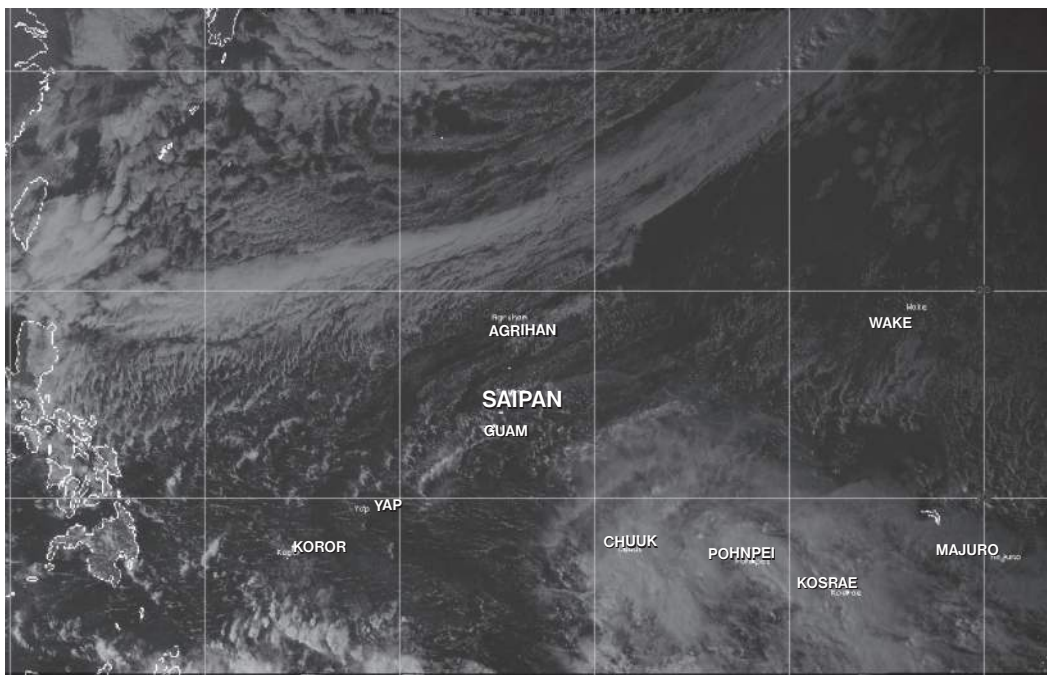
THURSDAY
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Minami Tori Shima near 25N154E to beyond 130E at 15N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through a circulation centered southeast of Yap near 1N143E then through another circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 2N156E to end at EQ171e. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen from southwest of Koror to south-southeast of Yap or south of a line from 2N130E to 5N137E to 1N142E. Scattered to numerous showers are occurring over Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and near Kwajalein between the equator and 10N from 150E to 170E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 7N170E to 5N175E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲69	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲43	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲75	▼69
London	Windy	▲55	▼51
Los Angeles	Suny	▲75	▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼72
New York	Showers	▲50	▼47
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼43
Paris	Cloudy	▲50	▼43
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼27
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼45
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼19
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼38
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲46	▼45

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	-0.6 Feet
10:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:19 AM	8:11 PM
Thursday	9:13 AM	9:12 PM
Friday	10:03 AM	10:11 AM
Saturday	10:52 AM	11:09 PM
Sunday	11:38 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

MVA

The Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners conducted a cleanup of Garapan on Dec. 20, 2014, netting approximately 250 lbs of trash.

JSTA leads Garapan cleanup for holidays

In preparation for Christmas and New Year's, the Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners conducted a cleanup of the main tourist district of Garapan on Dec. 20, 2014.

Seventy-three volunteers joined the cleanup beginning at 6:30am and held along both the roadside and beachside from the Carolinian Affairs Office to Micro Beach. Groups and companies joining JSTA included PDI, PMT, Tasi Tours, R&C Tours, H.I.S., Good Care, Hoshuko, Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Swim Club, Himawari, Himawari Kenbukan, Aqua Connections, Peace Divers, Wondersea, S2 Club, MSC, WATABE, Aqua Blue, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Marianas Visitors Authority, NTA, Sea Lovers, Aqua Marine, CMLC, Sea Shore Inc., Marine Quest, AQUASOUL SAIPAN, Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The cleanup effort netted 250 lbs. of trash. ***(MVA)***

Search continues for missing seaman off waters of Palau

PALAU—The search for a 24-year-old man, who was seen falling overboard from the motor vessel *Beagle 1* on Friday, continued yesterday.

Motor vessel *Beagle 1*, Palau patrol boat PSS *President H. I. Remeliik*, and a US Coast Guard C-130 long range search and rescue aircraft from Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii searched the waters 224 nautical miles southeast of Palau yesterday for the man who has been missing and is believed to have been in the water now for four days.

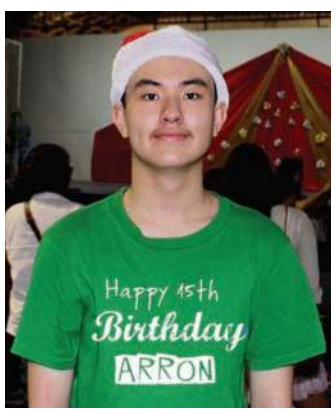
Those searching have reported that winds in the search area are gusting to 30 knots and seas are at 6 feet.

US Coast Guard Rescue Sub-Center Guam continues to plan and coordinate the multinational search effort, which is expected to continue today. ***(USCG)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

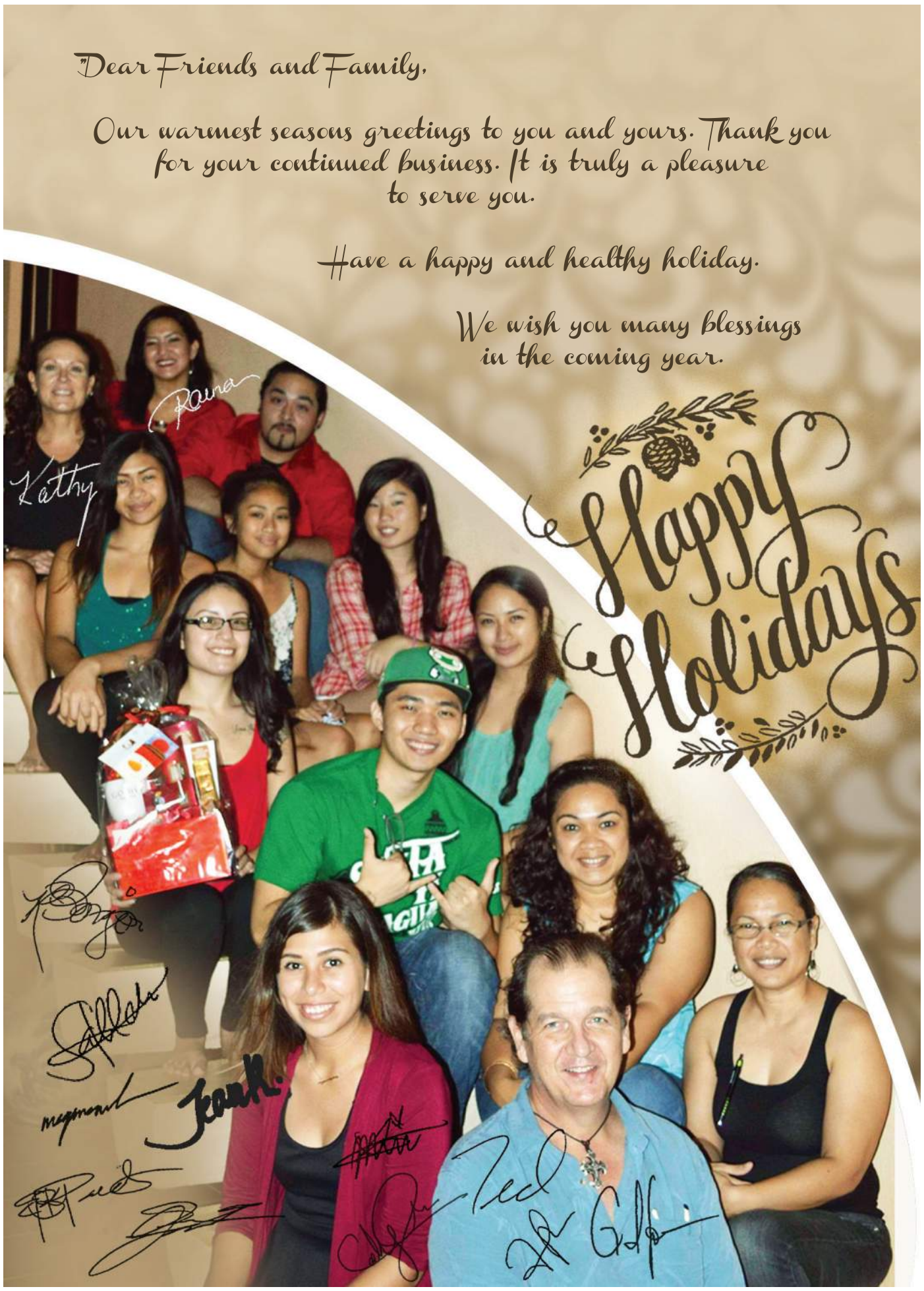
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to our Christmas baby, Bethany S. Tomokane, who will celebrate his birthday on Dec. 25, 2014! We love you, Bet-Bet. Greetings come from mom, dad and your siblings.



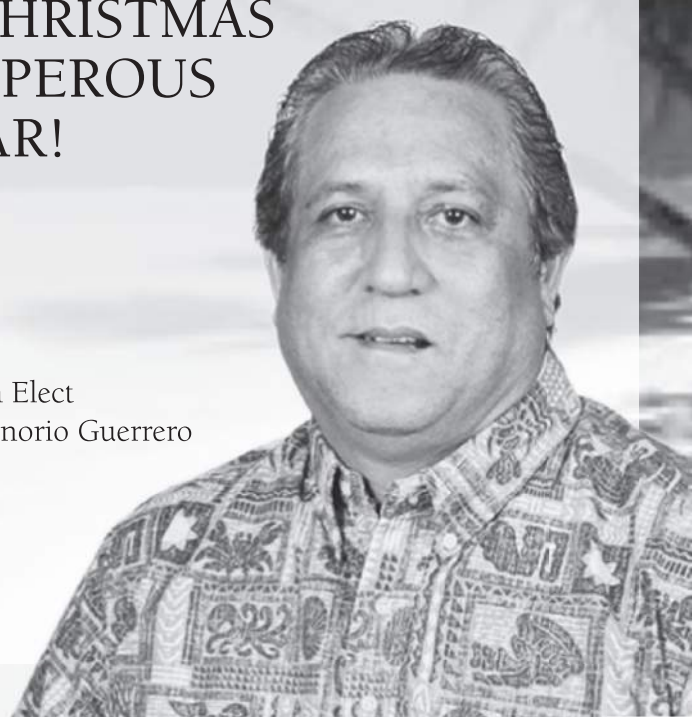
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Arron! Wishing you the very best things in the coming year and in life! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, and your entire family.


Dear Friends and Family,
Our warmest seasons greetings to you and yours. Thank you for your continued business. It is truly a pleasure to serve you.
Have a happy and healthy holiday.
We wish you many blessings in the coming year.
Happy Holidays
Kathy
Raina

Christmas brings family and friends together. It helps us appreciate the love in our lives we often take for granted. May the true meaning of the holiday season fill your heart and home with many blessings.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



From Congressman Elect
Joseph 'Lee Pan' Tenorio Guerrero
and Family

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority Country Marketing Director Jemy See, center, led the team that promoted Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Taipei International Travel Fair 2014 held in Taiwan. From left are Assistant Joan Wang, Marketing Executive Eileen Chen, See, PR & Marketing Manager Milane Tsai, and Marketing Specialist Laura Hsiao.

MVA joins Taipei travel fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently joined the 2014 Taipei International Travel Fair (TITF), one of the biggest annual travel industry events in the Asia-Pacific region.

This year, the fair received 337,319 visitors, a 7-percent increase over last year fair. The event attracted 950 exhibitors with 1,450 booths from 60 countries.

Leading up to the event, the MVA placed ads in *Trade Magazine* and *China Times* travel section featuring destination information and information on the MVA's upcoming booth and activities at TITF. The MVA also participated in two pre-event press conferences. The MVA distributed information and brochures at their booth, which was part of a Micronesia block under the American Pavilion.

"Awareness of the Northern Marianas in Taiwan continues to grow through the work of our in-country office," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We hope that will eventually lead to direct flights, but for now, we are receiving eager visitors from Taiwan via China and Korea."

The Association of National Tourism Office Representatives launched one of its exclusive "Super Blogger" promotions at the fair with three island destinations actively participating: the Northern Mariana Islands, the Philippines, and Thailand. This promotion aims to position the Northern Marianas as an adventure destination targeting island lovers and to increase awareness by targeting social media networkers, adventure lovers, and vacationers. Gala TV travel show "World's No. 1" host Yankee Yang, who filmed four show episodes in Northern Marianas in June, attracted a large crowd with his support of the MVA's Super Blogger promotion at the booth and on the main stage.

The Northern Marianas also received 34 mentions in television clips as a result of its participation in the fair. ***(MVA)***

As you relish the goodies, decorate every nook and corner of your home and enjoy the get-togethers... May the joy and festivities continue to radiate in your lives, long after Christmas is gone.

Merry Christmas to all!

From the management and staff of

J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY

DBA's
Saipan Bowling Center • Commercial Building & House Rental
Consulting Services & Rental Estates
J's Restaurant I-San Jose • J's Restaurant II-Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 29, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. 235-8641 • Fax 235-9033

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Business

It's becoming easier to shop overseas this holiday season

NEW YORK (AP)—This holiday season, it's almost as simple to shop on the other side of the world as it is to buy from a store down the block.

International online payment services like AliPay and PayPal are trying to ensure that a South Carolina fashionista can buy a faux fur vest from China with just a few clicks on her computer and a New Zealand biker can use his smartphone to pick up a rare part from a Colorado company.

These services come as shoppers and retailers alike have a growing appetite to buy items from any country, regardless of distance and regulations. In fact, a PayPal report estimates that by 2018, about 130 million shoppers will be spending over $300 billion a year across the border, up from $105 billion in 2013.

"The reality is pretty much nothing in a store is locally produced, so 99 percent of what you're buying is already a cross-border transaction. We're cutting out the middleman," said Anuj Nayar, senior director of global initiatives at PayPal, which is being spun off by eBay Inc.

Companies are working on fixing the biggest hurdles for international shopping: The perception that it costs a lot and takes a long time. They're handling the conversion of currency behind-the-scenes and giving shoppers the prices in their own currency. They're including tariffs and customs duties in the overall price of an item. And they're being transparent about shipping times and enabling shoppers track packages online.

Daniel McGaha, 24, a youth and college minister from Greenwood, South Carolina, ordered a baseball jersey for himself and some tassels for jewelry making and a faux fur vest for Christmas presents at AliExpress.com, which is owned by Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba. McGaha was happy that he got free shipping and that he was able to track his packages online.

"I will keep buying from AliExpress," he said.

Online retailers are benefiting from the interest in overseas shopping. About 25 percent of PayPal's transactions, for example, are international, with about 2,000 cross-border transactions per minute. And some retailers that work with PayPal, like Australian-based companies KeepCup, which sells reusable coffee cups, and WallFry, which sells wall art for children's rooms, have opened warehouses in other countries like the U.S. and U.K to keep up with demand from overseas.

AP

In this Oct. 21, 2014 file photo, a shopper walks across a floor displaying fashion brands and restaurants' names at a shopping mall in Beijing, China.

Investors expect higher stocks next year, but also turbulence

NEW YORK (AP)—Can the U.S. hold everyone else above water? That is the question investors are asking as Wall Street heads into 2015.

A strong U.S. economy helped propel the stock market higher in 2014, continuing a bull market that is on pace to celebrate its sixth birthday in March. On more than one occasion, investors dumped stocks following geopolitical flare-ups and concerns about the global economy, only to jump back in when an economic report or results from a big company suggested the U.S. economy was still resilient.

This bull market may be slowing down, but it still has had a remarkable run. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has more than tripled from its March 2009 low.

Wall Street strategists, who typically are bullish on the U.S. stock market, expect the advance to continue into 2015.

Here are the major themes investors will need to watch:

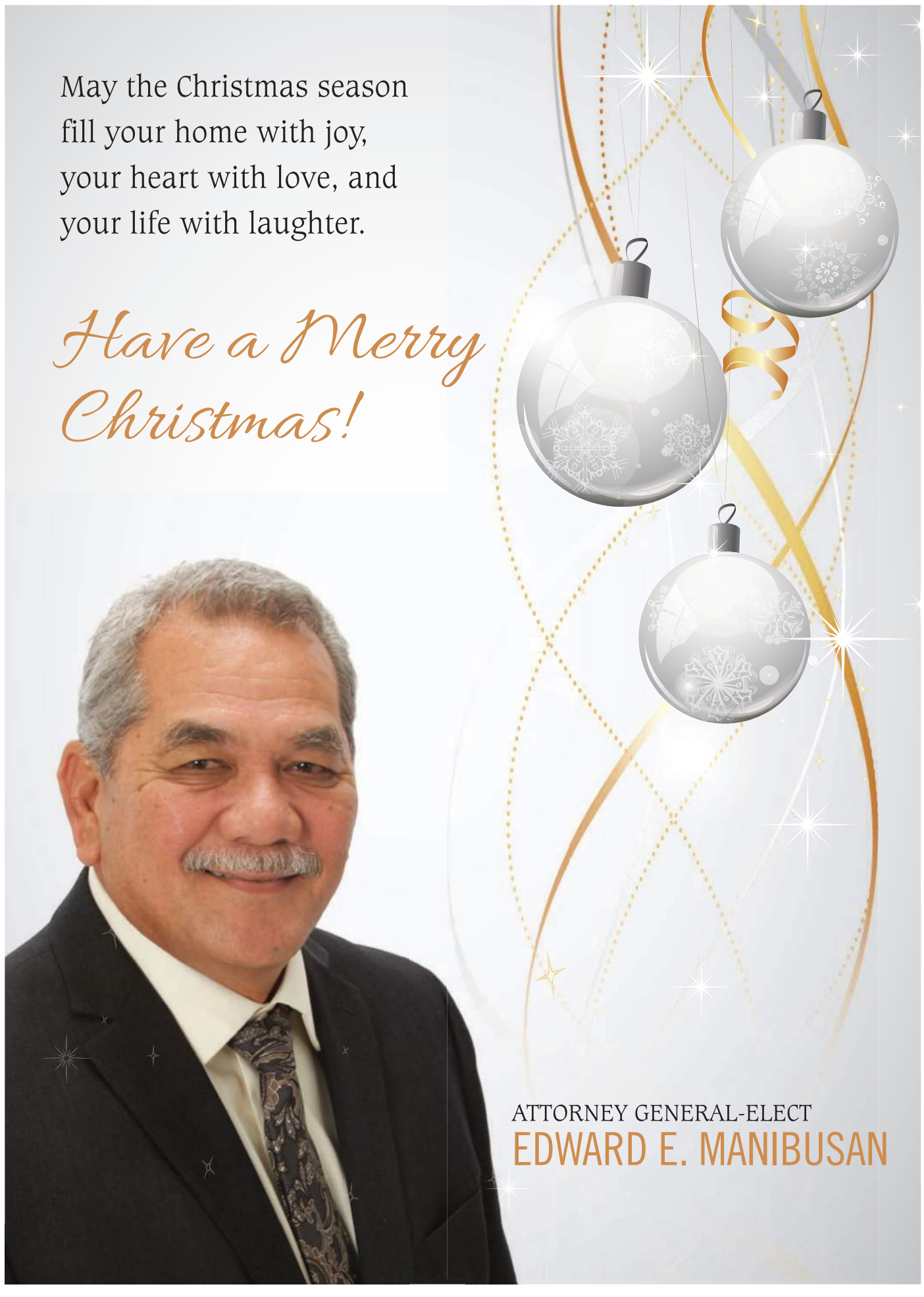
Solid, not spectacular, again:

2014 has been a solid year for stocks, and Wall Street forecasters expect more of the same next year. The S&P 500 index is on track to return 14 percent in 2014 including dividends, a healthy gain but well below the 2013 return of 32 percent. Because the U.S. economy should continue to improve, stocks are likely to march higher in 2015, strategists say. On average, strategists see the S&P 500 up roughly 6 to 8 percent, with most of the gains coming from large multinational companies that would benefit greatly from an improving U.S. economy. Although there are risks that U.S.-based companies might see international sales slow because of weakness in Europe and Asia, strategists believe U.S. growth will make up for that drag.

While U.S.-based companies do roughly half their sales outside the country, profits are still largely driven by the American economy.

The U.S. economy is expected to grow 3.1 percent in 2015, accelerating from the 2.2 percent growth it is expected to have this year.

This is a mature bull market, strategists say, so stock prices are relatively high and the possibility for volatility even higher. Investors are paying roughly $17.50 for every dollar of earnings companies in the S&P 500 generate, the most they've paid for stocks since 2010.



Nation

Battered NY mayor calls for temporary protest halt

NEW YORK (AP)—As the New York Police Department mourns two of its own, Mayor Bill de Blasio pleaded for a pause in protests and rancor amid a widening rift with those in a grieving force who accuse him of creating a climate of mistrust that contributed to the killings of two officers.

De Blasio called on Monday for a halt of political statements until after the funerals of the slain officers, an appeal to both sides in a roiling dispute centered on the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers.

"We are in a very difficult moment. Our focus has to be on these families," de Blasio said at police headquarters. "I think it's a time for everyone to put aside political debates, put aside protests, put aside all of the things that we will talk about in all due time."

De Blasio's relations with the city's police unions have tumbled to an extraordinary new low following Saturday's shooting, an ambush the gunman claimed was retaliation for the police-involved deaths of Eric Garner in New York and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

In a display of defiance, dozens of police officers turned their backs to de Blasio at the hospital where the officers died, and union leaders said the mayor had "blood on his hands" for enabling the protesters who have swept the streets of New York this month since a grand jury declined to indict an officer in Garner's chokehold death.

de Blasio

De Blasio, though he said he did not agree with the union leaders' comments, largely tried to strike a unifying note in his first extensive question-and-answer session since the shooting. He said he was confident the city was "working toward a day where we can achieve greater harmony toward policing and community."

Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were ambushed Saturday afternoon by a man who vowed in an Instagram post to put "wings on pigs." The man, Ismaaiyl Brinsley was black; the slain officers were Asian and Hispanic.

The killings came as police nationwide are being criticized following Garner's death and the shooting death of the 18-year-old Brown. Protests erupted after grand juries declined to charge officers in either case.

On Monday, a prosecutor said a white Milwaukee police officer who was fired after he fatally shot a mentally ill black man in April won't face criminal charges. The brother of the slain man, though clearly angry, urged protesters to remain peaceful.

De Blasio and NYPD Commissioner William Bratton met with the officers' grieving families Monday.

"There's a lot of pain. It's so hard to make sense of it—how one deeply troubled, violent individual could do this to these good families," a somber de Blasio said. "And I think it's a time for everyone to take stock that there are things that unite us, there are things that we hold dear as New Yorkers, as Americans."

But the Rev. Al Sharpton, a de Blasio ally, and other protest leaders said Monday they would not heed the mayor's call to suspend demonstrations.

Investigators continued to depict Brinsley as an emotionally troubled loner. He had an extensive criminal record and was involved in a 2011 standoff with police in Georgia that ended with officers using a stun gun on him, according to records.

Governor Eloy S. Inos Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider

Peace. Love. Hope.

Throughout our islands, everyone is celebrating one of the most anticipated moments of the year: the Christmas Holidays. Everywhere you go, the reminders of the Christmas season are abundant: trees and buildings adorned with ornaments and lights, children singing time-honored carols, and people reveling in family traditions. As we prepare to celebrate this holiday season, let us be thankful for all the blessings we received throughout the year.

Let us also remember the memories that we have shared with loved ones who left us this year, along with those who go out of their way to ensure that we celebrate in peace and security. Let us not forget to share these very same blessings afforded us with those who are less fortunate this time of year. Give them the greatest gift of all: the warmth of the true spirit of giving and love.

Jude and I wish you all the peace and joy of this holiday season and urge all of you to celebrate joyfully with loved ones. May the good Lord continue to bless you with health and happiness as we prepare to welcome a new year with a renewed resolve to make the next 365 days more rewarding than the last. May your holidays be filled with peace, love, and hope.

From our hearts to yours,

Felis Påsguan Noche Buena yan Felis Åñu Nuebu!
Ammeseighil Ubwutiwel Layúl Luugh me Ráágh Fféé!
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ELOY S. INOS JUDE U. HOFSCHNEIDER

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-headmaster guilty in child porn case

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—The former headmaster of an elite Delaware prep school faces at least 50 years in prison after being convicted Monday of dealing in child pornography. Christopher Wheeler, 54, was found guilty on all 25 counts. Wheeler is a former headmaster at Tower Hill school, where he was paid more than $300,000 a year and where tuition exceeds $25,000 a year. Graduates of the school, founded by members of the du Pont family, include DuPont Co. CEO Ellen Kullman, U.S. Sen. Chris Coons and television personality Dr. Oz. Superior Court Judge Eric Davis said the evidence showed Wheeler sought out and downloaded images of child porn. Wheeler showed no emotion as Davis read from a lengthy opinion. The judge tentatively set Wheeler's sentencing for March. Each count carries a minimum two-year prison term.

Arizona to change drugs it uses in executions

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona officials said Monday they have been cleared of any wrongdoing in an execution this year that lasted nearly two hours, but they are nevertheless changing the drugs they use to put inmates to death. According to a letter from Department of Corrections Director Charles Ryan to Gov. Jan Brewer, the agency no longer will use the drug combination used in the controversial July execution of Joseph Rudolph Wood. He was given 15 doses of the drugs and gasped over and over before taking his final breath. The letter said the department will stop using the mixture of midazolam, a sedative, and hydromorphone, a painkiller. Instead, it will try to obtain pentobarbital or Sodium Pentothal, the powerful sedative also known as sodium thiopental that was used in lethal injections in Arizona until it became difficult to obtain.

Ex-officer not charged in fatal Milwaukee shooting

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A white Milwaukee police officer fired after killing a mentally ill black man in April won't face criminal charges, the top county prosecutor said Monday, a decision that prompted the U.S. attorney to later announce a federal investigation of the incident. Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said Christopher Manney won't be charged because he shot Dontre Hamilton in self-defense. Manney is at least the third white police officer across the country to avoid charges in the past month after a confrontation that led to a black man's death. "(Manney's) use of force was privileged and justified," Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said during a news conference. "On a human level, of course, it's tragic ... (but) our job is not to tell people necessarily what they want to hear."

Marathon bombing suspect's lawyers invoke McVeigh

BOSTON (AP)—Lawyers for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev who are seeking to have his trial moved out of Massachusetts again drew parallels Monday between the media coverage of their client's case and the coverage received by Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. It would be impossible to select impartial jurors, defense attorneys wrote in a filing Monday, because "the crimes charged inflicted actual injury on the entire local population" and "greater Boston, was itself, a victim." Defense attorneys said "adverse pretrial publicity and leaks continue unabated," and "media saturation can only be expected to intensify" as the January trial—and the April anniversary of the explosions—nears.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

PO Box 500135 Saipan MP 96950

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. CCC-14-001
OPENING DATE: 12/24/14
CLOSING DATE: 01/07/15

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligibility list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: ***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR***

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

LOCATION: Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION SUMMARY
The Executive Director is responsible for the overall administration of the Commonwealth Casino Commission (the "Commission" or "CCC"). The Executive Director ensures that the Commission exercises its authority in compliance with Public Law 18-56 and other Commonwealth laws, Agreements, Rules and Regulations. He/She will be responsible for directing and managing the regulatory activities of the Commission to ensure the gaming industry performs in compliance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Casino Act of 2014 (Public Law 18-56) as well as industry best practices. The Executive Director reports to and is supervised by the Commission.

Note: This job posting is intended to describe the general nature and level of work to be performed by the assigned person. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, skills or working conditions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION
Pursuant to CNMI Public Law 18-56 § 2315

- A Bachelor's Degree from a United States accredited educational institution or equivalent
- Five (5) years work experience in professional, administrative or management in government or private sectors
- Good ethical and moral character
- Must posses a clean criminal history and must not have been convicted of any crime in any jurisdiction of the United States, or any foreign country carrying a minimum sentence of imprisonment of more than six months, excepting traffic offence
- Must not have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any business under the jurisdiction of the Commission

MINIMUM BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS
Applicant must submit to and pass background screen, including, but not limited to drug and criminal record investigation. Certain information discovered could result in ineligibility for employment with the Commonwealth Casino Commission. The Commission will require a personal financial disclosure prior to making a final decision.

Applicant must be a US Citizen or US Permanent Resident. CNMI Government Excepted Service benefits will apply.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD REQUEST A COPY OF THE COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION.

CONTACT PERSON:
Ruth Ann P. Sakisat
Commonwealth Casino Commission
C/O The Office of the Governor, 1st Floor
PO Box 500135
Saipan MP 96950
(670) 237-2214

OR EMAIL REQUEST TO:
commonwealthcasinocommission@gmail.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DPW/SWM15-RFP-001

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR REMOVAL, PACKAGING, CONTAINMENT, AND SHIPPING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS COLLECTED AT THE LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide Procurement of Services for removal, packaging, containment, and shipping of hazardous waste materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station (LBRTS), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §**70-30.3-210** (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Services will be available on or after **December 17, 2014** at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station **January 07, 2015**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time January 14, 2015.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/SWM15-RFP-001."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, January 26, 2015.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **January 26, 2015**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 26, 2015** and must be received no later **February 04, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section **70-30.3-210** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Operation Plan: 40%
2. Past Experience on Similar Projects: 40%
3. Professional Qualifications: 10%
4. Financial Proposal: 10%

Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-004

SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to provide Security Guard Services for various posts at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by December 29, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a site visitation of CUC Saipan Facilities will be held on **December 30, 2014** at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. A site visitation of CUC Rota Facilities will be conducted on January 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST). A site visitation of CUC Tinian Facilities will be conducted on January 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agrees to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Bidders shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Bidders shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-004, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on January 15, 2015** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **December 31, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vincent Pangelinan, Safety Officer, CUC Compliance & Safety Division via email address vince.pangelinan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-008

8" ACP WATERLINE ABANDONMENT FOR SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the 8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This work consists of disconnecting customer service lateral connections off the 8" ACP and reconnecting these customers on to the proper tank service area distribution main. Work will also consist of installing new gate valve assemblies and the abandonment of the 8" ACP waterline. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is 190 calendar days from date of award of the contract.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled on **December 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 2, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water & Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

World

Key North Korean websites back online after shutdown

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Key North Korean websites were back online Tuesday after an hours-long shutdown that followed a U.S. vow to respond to a crippling cyberattack on Sony Pictures that Washington blames on Pyongyang.

The White House and the State Department declined to say whether the U.S. government was responsible for the Internet shutdown in one of the least-wired and poorest countries in the world.

Though it denies responsibility for the Sony hack, Pyongyang has called it a "righteous deed" and made clear its fury over "The Interview," a comedy that depicts the assassination of the North's authoritarian leader, Kim Jong Un, the head of a 1.2 million-man army and the focus of an intense cult of personality.

South Korean officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the North's official Korean Central News Agency and the Rodong Sinmun newspaper, which are the main channels for official North Korea news, had earlier been down. But the websites were back up later Tuesday. Among the posts glorifying the ruling Kim family was one about Kim Jong Un visiting a catfish farm.

U.S. computer experts described the Internet outages in the North as sweeping and progressively worse. Jim Cowie, chief scientist at Dyn Research, an Internet performance company, said in an online post that the North came back online after a 9 1/2-hour outage.

Possible causes for the shutdown include an external attack on its fragile network or even just power problems, Cowie wrote. But, he added, "We can only guess."

Last year, North Korea suffered similar brief Internet shutdowns of websites at a time of nuclear tensions with the U.S., South Korea and other countries. North Korea blamed Seoul and Washington for the outages.

President Barack Obama has said the U.S. government expected to respond to the Sony hack, which he described as an expensive act of "cyber vandalism" by North Korea.

Obama did not discuss details, and it was not immediately clear if the Internet connectivity problems represented the retribution. The U.S. government regards its offensive cyber operations as highly classified.

But U.S. options for acting against North Korea are limited. The country already faces massive international and U.S. sanctions over its repeated nuclear and rocket tests.

The hack has been a nightmare for Sony, which canceled plans to release the movie after a group of hackers made threats against theaters that planned to show it.

Although North Korea is equipped for broadband Internet, only a small, approved segment of the population has any access to the World Wide Web. Few North Koreans have access to computers; those who do are typically able to connect only to a domestic Intranet.

More than a million people use mobile phones in North Korea. The network covers most major cities, but users cannot call outside the country or receive calls from outside. The North's Intranet gives access to government-sanctioned sites and works with its own browsers, search engine and email programs, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Pope in blistering critique of Vatican bureaucrats

VATICAN CITY (AP)—To the Catholic Church's "seven deadly sins," Pope Francis has added the "15 ailments of the Curia."

Francis issued a blistering indictment of the Vatican bureaucracy Monday, accusing the cardinals, bishops and priests who serve him of using their Vatican careers to grab power and wealth, of living "hypocritical" double lives and forgetting that they're supposed to be joyful men of God.

Francis turned the traditional, genteel exchange of Christmas greetings into a public dressing down of the Curia, the central administration of the Holy See which governs the 1.2-billion strong Catholic Church. He made clear that his plans for a radical reform of the structures of church power must be accompanied by an even more radical spiritual reform of the men involved.

Ticking off 15 "ailments of the Curia" one by one, Francis urged the prelates sitting stone-faced before him in the marbled Sala Clementina to use the Christmas season to repent and atone and make the church a healthier, holier place in 2015.

Vatican watchers said they had never heard such a powerful, violent speech from a pope and suggested that it was informed by the results of a secret investigation ordered up by Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI in the aftermath of the 2012 leaks of his papers.

AP

Pope Francis delivers his message during a meeting with Cardinals and Bishops of the Vatican Curia on the occasion of the exchange of Christmas greetings in the Clementine hall at Vatican, Monday, Dec. 22, 2014.

Benedict tasked three trusted cardinals to probe deep into the Vatican's back-stabbing culture to root out what would have prompted a papal butler to steal incriminating documents and leak them to a journalist. Their report is known only to the two popes.

Francis had some zingers: How the "terrorism of gossip" can "kill the reputation of our colleagues and brothers in cold blood." How cliques can "enslave their members and become a cancer that threatens the harmony of the body" and eventually kill it off by "friendly fire." How some suffer from "spiritual Alzheimer's," forgetting what drew them to the priesthood in the first place.

"The Curia is called on to always improve itself and grow in communion, holiness and knowledge to fulfill its mission," Francis said. "But even it, as any human body, can suffer from ailments, dysfunctions, illnesses."

Francis, who is the first Latin American pope and never worked in the Italian-dominated Curia before he was elected, has not shied from complaining about the gossiping, careerism and bureaucratic power intrigues that afflict the Holy See. His 2013 Christmas address cast a spotlight on such sins.

But a year into his reform agenda, Francis seemed even more emboldened to make clear to the prelates themselves that superficial displays of change aren't what he is looking for.

"This is a speech without historic precedent," church historian Alberto Melloni, a contributor to Italian daily Corriere della Sera, said in a telephone interview. "If the pope uses this tone, it's because he knows it's necessary."

Melloni noted that until Francis was elected, the Vatican bureaucracy largely answered to no one, saying "an entire generation of the Curia ran it as if they were pope." St. John Paul II was too busy travelling the world, and later too sick, to pay attention to administrative details, and Benedict left the minutiae of running a government to his deputy, later determined to have been part of the problem.

The Rev. Robert Wister, a church historian at Seton Hall University, said Francis was essentially asking the Curia to undergo an examination of conscience, asking them to reflect on how they had sinned before God before going to confession.

"Perhaps he believes that only a severe rebuke can help turn things around," he said.

Japan's emperor turns 81, renews peace commitment

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Emperor Akihito says he "ardently" hoped Japan will strive hard as a peaceful country, as he celebrated his 81th birthday ahead of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II next year.

Akihito said he hoped Japan will move forward to play a friendship role with its Asian neighbors as well as the rest of the world. His comment, made at a customary news conference last week, was released Tuesday.

His commitment to peace as the son of Emperor Hirohito, in whose name Japan waged war, is often highlighted at a time Japan's rightwing government seeks to acquire a greater military role.

Thousands of well-wishers cheered at the palace Tuesday, a national holiday in Japan, as Akihito appeared on a balcony to greet them.

Women excised from public life, abused by IS

BEIRUT (AP)—The gunmen came to the all-girls' elementary school in the Iraqi city of Fallujah at midday with a special delivery: piles of long black robes with gloves and face veils, now required dress code for females in areas ruled by the Islamic State group.

"These are the winter version. Make sure every student gets one," one of the men told a supervisor at the school earlier this month.

Extremists are working to excise women from public life across the territory controlled by the Islamic State group, stretching hundreds of kilometers (miles) from the outskirts of the Syrian city of Aleppo in the west to the edges of the Iraqi capital in the east.

The group has been most notorious for its atrocities, including the horrors it inflicted on women and girls from Iraq's minority Yazidi community when its fighters overran their towns this year. Hundreds of Yazidi women and girls were abducted and given to extremists as slaves. A report by Amnesty International released Tuesday said the captives—including girls as young as 10-12—endured torture, rape and sexual slavery, and that several abducted girls committed suicide.

In day-to-day life, the group has also dramatically hemmed in women's lives across the Sunni Muslim heartland that makes up the bulk of Islamic State group territory, activists and residents say. Their movements are restricted and their opportunity for work has shrunk.

In Iraq's Mosul, the biggest city in the group's self-declared caliphate, "life for women has taken a 180-degree turn," said Hanaa Edwer, a prominent Iraqi human rights activist. "They are forbidding them from learning, forbidding them from moving around freely. The appearance of a woman is being forcefully altered."

At least eight women have been stoned to death for alleged adultery in IS-controlled areas in northern Syria, activists say.

At least 10 women in Mosul have been killed for speaking out against the group, Edwer said. In August, IS detained and beheaded a female dentist in Deir el-Zour who had continued to treat patients of both sexes, the U.N. said.

Relatives of women considered improperly dressed or found in the company of males who are not relatives are lashed or imprisoned. In the IS-controlled town of al-Bab in Syria's northern Aleppo province, an activist described seeing armed militants walking with a stick in hand, gently whacking or jabbing at women deemed inappropriately dressed.

"Sometimes they follow the woman home and detain her father, or they confiscate her ID and tell her to come back with her father to pick it up," said Bari Abdelatif, now based in Turkey.

Enforcement varies from one place to the other, much of it depending on the whims of the Hisba, or vice police enforcing those rules. Most of the areas taken over by IS were already deeply conservative places where women had a subordinate role in society, but the extremists have sharply exacerbated the restrictions.

Abdelatif said women in al-Bab are harassed for venturing outside their home without a "mahram," or male guardian. In the Syrian city of Raqqa, the militants' de facto capital, activists said women were allowed to leave their homes on their own, but needed a male companion or permission of a male relative to leave the city.

An IS all-female brigade, called al-Khansa, patrols the streets in some areas to enforce clothing restrictions.

Across the territory, women now have to wear the "khimar," a tent-like robe that covers the head, shoulders and chest. The khimar leaves the face exposed but very often the militants go ahead and force women to put a niqab veil over their faces as well, leaving only the eyes visible.

Good Housekeeping

2nd-Empire style mansion a holiday gift of home design

By KEVIN KIRKLAND
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH—With a huge red satin bow, the Negley-Gwinner-Harter house looks like a three-story Christmas present. Recently the Second Empire-style mansion was featured on a walking tour to benefit the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

The fact that the house is still standing is a tribute to its succession of owners, beginning with William B. Negley in 1871. Each family has left its mark, and in one case, saved it from demolition after a 1986 fire that destroyed the top floor. The current owners are Marina and Ken Lehn, who bought it in 2002.

The house was last open to the public in 2003. The Lehns themselves have done many things to the house and also a team of designers added some holiday touches for the most recent tour. Visitors who take the tour will get to see what the Lehns have done, and what ta eam of designers led by Bill Chisnell has added over the last four days.

"I love to watch the creative process," said Lehn. "Bill would put something up, go to another room, look at it and come back to do some more."

The tour starts in the two-story foyer, whose white Carrara marble walls and staircase are showstoppers even without the decorators' contributions. Now it's even more spectacular, with silken white peacocks and miniature musical instruments woven into evergreen boughs. It's no coincidence that the instruments and ornaments match the gilding in the wrought-iron railing and friezes over the door, carefully done by Joseph Youssef Kadri.

Then there is the mahogany-paneled Neoclassical-style dining room, decorated in a "Frozen"-inspired color scheme chosen by Marina Lehn. It's usually the billiard room though the 9-foot pool table is well hidden beneath layers of sequined tablecloths and nearly 1,000 brooches. Jewelry covers topiaries and candlesticks, dangles from a mirror over the mantel, even becomes sparkling napkin rings. Chisnell began collecting the brooches to make bejeweled bouquets for brides and bridesmaids. His cousin, Jill Miller, added to his cache by scouring flea markets and yard sales.

RALPH MUSTHALER/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS

A view of the family room designed by Bill Chisnell in the Grand Second-Empire style home from 1871.

The real dining room table is stored away, though its chairs are in their places, including antique armchairs the Lehns found at the Carnegie Antique Show several years ago.

The family room comes next. Though the owners loved its Arts & Crafts-style oak paneling, they chose to lighten it with a faux finish. A previous owner had already removed the tooled elephant hide that once filled panels above the wainscoting. In its place is a continuous mural of a Pennsylvania landscape painted by Kevin Cooklin. A tranquil stream seems to run from one wall to the next, vanishing into a central furniture grouping only to reappear on the opposite wall. Adding seasonal joy are 34 Byers Choice figures loaned by tour publicist Jean Horne, a reminder of how much her late husband Charlie loved Christmas.

Visitors then land in the kitchen, the only room that looks much the same as it did in 2003.That's because it was designed by Denham-Vitalie to the Lehns' specifications. Painted cabinetry complements honed limestone counter tops and Jerusalem limestone flooring that extends into what was once a butler's pantry. The small table and chairs look like antiques but are actually made from hand-carved barnwood. The Lehns found the set during a visit to Vail, Colo.

The family's Christmas tree stands in what is usually the dining room. Lovely linenfold oak paneling and a restored ornate plaster ceiling reflect its Tudor style and beautiful stained-glass medallions in the windows, installed by the Gwinners, have German motifs. A massive mid-1800s oak sideboard the Lehns found at a local antiques showroom holds a prominent place on one wall.

For this room, Chisnell chose a beautiful peacock blue, natural fur and "lots of glitz." When he couldn't find the metallic ribbon he wanted to decorate the tree, he made it himself. It was Marina Lehn's idea to scroll it through the branches. Three furry stockings—one each for the Lehns and their 10-year-old son—hang from the stone fireplace mantel.

"In past years, we had the Christmas tree in the foyer," she said. "I really like it in here."

The tour ends back in the foyer, where a table was one of Chisnell's final touches. day. He fashioned the huge bow on the house's exterior last year, before the holiday crush.

"I noticed that Cartier in New York had one," Marina Lehn recalled. "I said, 'Bill, can you put a big bow on my house?'"

She thinks hers is nicer than Cartier's. The wide satin ribbon has pockets that hold cables to secure it in place and the bow—made from flexible plastic—is so big that it takes up an entire stall in the carriage house.

After the Lehns bought the house, they received photographs and letters from a Gwinner ancestor who grew up there. Now in his 80s, he visited two years ago and quickly recognized a place from his memories.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Holiday Safety

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

We're at the height of the holiday season, and life probably is pretty busy. But as you prepare for get-togethers and dinners, remember to put safety first. Below are a few things to remember that will help you to be prepared for emergencies and keep your household safe:

■ Ahead of a family gathering, move toxic cleaning supplies and other chemicals to the garage, up and out of reach of children. Clearly label any unlabeled bottles so that nothing is confused with a food or beverage item.

■ Make sure a fire extinguisher is kept in the kitchen, and in any room where a fireplace is lit. It should be visible and not too near the heat source.

■ Tape a list of emergency contact numbers near the phone -- not just 911, but the veterinarian, poison control center and family contacts. Put these contacts into your cellphone contacts list as well.

■ Keep candles away from combustible items, and place them well out of reach of children.

■ Use only non-combustible or flame-retardant decorations on Christmas trees.

■ Avoid small decorations that look like candy to children, who could choke on them.

■ If using space heaters, follow safety rules closely: don't leave them unattended; don't drape clothes or other items over them; and don't let kids or seniors sit too close.

The National Association of Certified Home Inspectors offers more safety tips at: www.nachi.org/holidaysafety.htm

HOME TIP: Close heating registers in unused rooms and shut the door to keep visitors out. You'll save energy and improve safety during gatherings.

Send your questions or home tips to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

Shrimp Cocktail Pizza Appetizers

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

If you are hosting (or attending) a potluck party for New Year's, be sure to put this on the menu. Everyone will be glad you did.

1 (8-ounce) can reduced-fat crescent rolls
1 (8-ounce) package fat-free cream cheese
1/4 cup no-fat sour cream
1/2 cup cocktail sauce
2 cups finely shredded lettuce
2 (6-ounce) packages frozen shrimp, thawed, cooked and chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Spray a rimmed 10-by-15-inch baking sheet with butter-flavored cooking spray. Unroll crescent rolls and carefully pat into prepared baking sheet to form a crust, being sure to seal perforations. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until crust is light golden brown. Place baking sheet on a wire rack and allow to cool completely.

3. In a large bowl, stir cream cheese with a sturdy spoon until soft. Stir in sour cream and cocktail sauce. Evenly spread mixture over cooled crust. Sprinkle lettuce evenly over sauce mixture. Evenly sprinkle chopped shrimp over top. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

4. Cut into 16 pieces. Makes 8 (2 pieces each) servings.

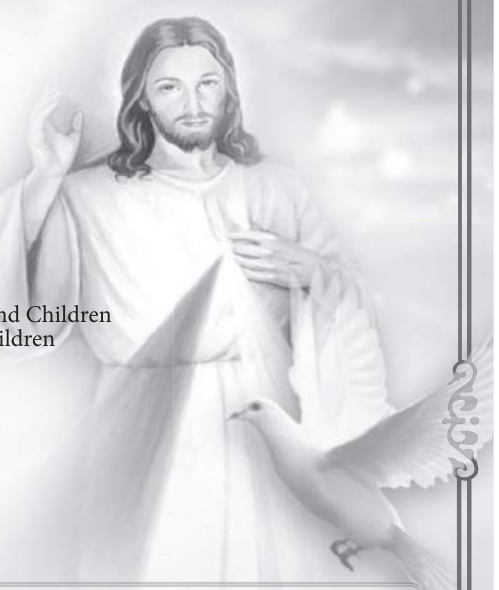
• *Each serving equals: 193 calories, 5g fat, 16g protein, 21g carb., 704mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch; Carb Choices: 1 1/2.*

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

†Christopher S. Santos

April 10, 1990 - December 19, 2014



Son : Ezel Karter – Santos
Parents : Rosalina Santos – Magofna
Antonio C. Magofna
Ramon Ch Santos
Tess G. Santos
Grandmother : Antonia Aguon Santos
Godparents : Almondo Ch. Santos
Annie B. Santos
David Anthony M. Hosono
Ma. Rosario Dela Torre

Brothers , Sisters and In laws:
Chayse Raymond Santos & Jessica Macaranas and Children
Chasmyn Santos & David John Apatang and Children
Mary Grace Santos & Joel Matagolai
Margieray Santos
Amber-Lynn Santos Quinata
Almondo Franco Santos
Tonnya Lyn Santos Magofna
Catalina Keona Cabrera

Godchildren : Clarence Damian P. Ruluked
David John S. Apatang

	Mass Schedule			Rosary Schedule
Wednesday :	December 24	5:00AM	-	12:00PM
Thursday :	December 25	-	-	12:00PM
Friday :	December 26	6:00PM	-	07:00PM
Saturday :	December 27	6:00PM	-	07:00PM
Sunday :	December 28	8:00AM	-	07:00PM

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, December 29, 2014. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be 8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in Prayers,

The Family

Life & Style

Angelina Jolie's latest incarnation: filmmaker

NEW YORK (AP)—In a life that has been notable for its many metamorphoses—screen starlet, Goth vixen, United Nations ambassador, mother of six, breast cancer awareness advocate—Angelina Jolie's latest incarnation is as filmmaker.

Rarely has an actor, particularly of Jolie's stature, so fully given over to the other side of the camera. On Thursday, she'll release her second directorial effort, the inspirational World War II survival tale "Unbroken," which follows her Bosnian War drama "In the Land of Blood and Honey." She has already shot her next movie (an intimate marriage drama in which she also co-stars with her husband, Brad Pitt), and made plans for her fourth film, "Africa," about elephant poaching. Meanwhile, she's virtually disappeared from the screen, starring in only one live-action film ("Maleficent") in the last four years.

The transformation is complete, even if the new title gives her some hesitation.

"I'm shy to call myself a director still. When someone says, 'What do you do for a living?' I don't know if I've earned that," Jolie said in a pair of recent interviews, one in a Manhattan hotel, the other by phone. "I do love directing. I much prefer it to acting."

It's admittedly unlikely that Jolie is beset by queries about her occupation ("And this Mr. Pitt, is he in show business as well?"). But if there were any doubt, the scope of "Unbroken"—a classical epic that spans war and sea, a prestige picture with major below-the-line talent, a Christmas Day release amid awards season—certainly makes clear Jolie's ambition.

"If you would have said to me a few years ago, 'What kind of film are you looking for?' I would have never said a film with shark attacks and bombing raids and the Olympics," says Jolie. "I would have picked something very intimate and character driven. But I fell in love with this story."

The story is of Louis Zamperini, who before enlisting in the Air Force to fight in World War II was a track star who ran in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. During the war, his B-24 bomber crashed in the Pacific. He and two crewmates survived on a raft at sea for 47 days, only to be captured by the Japanese and put into a brutal prisoner-of-war camp.

Zamperini's incredible life was chronicled in a 2010 best-seller by Laura Hillenbrand, though his tale had been kicking around in Hollywood since 1956, when Universal Pictures bought the rights to Zamperini's memoir with plans for Tony Curtis to star in the film.

AP
In this image released by Universal Pictures, director Angelina Jolie appearas on the set of "Unbroken."

"If it was a hot property, I wouldn't have had a chance, to be honest," says Jolie, who had to convince Universal that she could handle a much larger project than the independent "In the Land of Blood and Honey." But she was deeply moved by the script (later to be rewritten by the Coen brothers) and Hillenbrand's book.

"It wasn't that I believed I was the most skilled director," she says. "It was that I just really, really cared."

Colleagues of Jolie's bear that out, calling the film a deeply personal one for the 39-year-old.

"Obviously, she doesn't know as much about the technical aspects of filmmaking as some people like Joel and Ethan (Coen) do, but she learns very quickly and she's so passionate about it all," says cinematography Roger Deakins, the Coens' usual director of photography, who's also slated to shoot "Africa."

"We spent a lot of time in prep and a lot of time considering what we wanted from a sequence," says Deakins, who said a touchstone for Jolie was Sidney Lumet's "The Hill." "But on the day, on the set, it was a very instinctive way of working, which I found quite stimulating."

The young British actor Jack O'Connell, who plays Zamperini, wasn't the studio's preferred choice, but Jolie fought for him.

"Undoubtedly, in terms of the movie industry's perspective on it, there were certain boxes that hadn't been ticked," says O'Connell. "But I think that's a credit to Angelina. She just wanted the best actors for the roles and wanted to make the best movie possible, as opposed to entertaining business agendas."

"Unbroken" has put Jolie into the awards season mix, though the film was conspicuously absent from the Golden Globes nominations. But the most important response from "Unbroken"—which Jolie calls "the hardest thing I've ever done creatively"—was Zamperini.

Before he died in July at age 97, he and Jolie—who lived just around the corner from each other in Los Angeles—became close friends. Jolie screened the film for Zamperini on his deathbed, and she vividly recalls "those beautiful blue eyes" seeing his life's story, revisiting memories and family Zamperini knew, she says, he'd soon be reunited with.

"I didn't anticipate when I signed on to do it what an impact this man would have on my life and how much this story and the messages would hit home with me and my family and change me," says Jolie. "He did change me. He had a huge impact on me. I didn't grow up with a dad in the house and my grandparents passed away when I was young. I didn't realize how much I needed that older, wiser compassionate friend to help give me that guidance and support."

SIDEBAR

Jolie on 'Unbroken,' the Coens and acting with Pitt again

NEW YORK (AP)—For more than 50 years, Hollywood has flirted with bringing Louis Zamperini's story to the big screen. In her second movie as director, Angelina Jolie has finally filmed the story of an Olympic runner who in World War II was a castaway at sea for 47 days before being found and put in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. Here are excerpts from a recent interview with Jolie in which she reflected on the challenges of "Unbroken," the collaborators who helped her and the experience of working again with husband Brad Pitt for their recently shot drama "By the Sea."

ON PLAYING A COUPLE IN CRISIS WITH PITT

"At the end of the day, you are actually the best teammates. Nobody's in your corner more. It almost makes you get past those issues because you can almost laugh at them. You do a film about bad marriage or fighting and you witness that behavior. You study it, you let it out, you attack each other and then you just want to hold each and make sure you never behave that way."

ON FITTING ZAMPERINI'S EPIC LIFE INTO ONE MOVIE

"I remember thinking, `God, I can't understand why it would take 50 years. This is the greatest adventure.' Then when we were on set trying to deal with as much as we had to deal with in our budget, for our time, I suddenly became painfully aware of why it had taken so long. We had moments where we felt we were up against the impossible. It's a big, big life."

ON ZAMPERINI'S SPIRIT

"For his 96th birthday, I got this big blue cake with this tiny yellow little raft and little shark fins. When I was bringing it to the restaurant, I suddenly had this horrible thought. I realized, `Oh my god, this is the ocean where he lost his friends. This is where (Francis "Mac" McNamara) died. How is he going to take this? Did I make a huge mistake?' I brought him the cake and he looked at it and he picked up the shark fin and he smiled at me and he put it in his mouth and ate the shark first."

ON THE COEN BROTHERS, CO-WRITERS OF THE SCREENPLAY

"I was very nervous the first meeting. They're just so kind and so helpful, so humble and just so intelligent, so witty. You just feel like you're in great hands. I needed to make sure the film also had this structure and wit and a certain amount of playfulness between the men, and that this was something it really needed. The nice thing was they came on not because I called. They came on out of respect for the story. They came on, like everybody joined on to this, because of Louis."

ON CINEMATOGRAPHER ROGER DEAKINS

"He was absolutely just the most extraordinary (director of photography) to work with. We really wanted to make a film that was beautiful because we knew it was hard to watch. We talked a lot about films that were shot in an accidental way but made quite classic, very decided in how they're shot. ... Without Roger Deakins, I don't know how I would have managed all these things, but he is so strong and steady and he shoots things so beautifully."

AP
In this image released by Universal Pictures, Jack O'Connell portrays Olympian and war hero Louis "Louie" Zamperini in a scene from "Unbroken."

Justin Lin to direct third 'Star Trek' film

AP

In this April 18, 2013 file photo, Justin Lin arrives at the Cinemacon Big Screen Awards red carpet and receives Director of the Year Award at Caesars Palace, in Las Vegas.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The USS Enterprise is about to get a little faster. "Fast & Furious" director Justin Lin is taking the helm of the third installment in Paramount's "Star Trek" franchise.

Lin's rep confirmed the news Monday.

Lin is no stranger to franchises. He directed several of Universal's "Fast & Furious" films, including the massively successful "Fast & Furious 6," which made more than $788 million worldwide.

J.J. Abrams directed the first two films in the rebooted "Star Trek" series. Roberto Orci was the co-writer on those first two films. He was slated to step into the director's chair after Abrams left to work on "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," but he exited that role in early December.

Orci will still serve as a writer and producer on the film. It's slated for a 2016 release.

Donny and Marie Osmond extend Las Vegas show dates

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Sibling singers Donny and Marie Osmond will be singing at the Flamingo Las Vegas at least through the end of 2015.

Caesars Entertainment Corp. announced Monday that the duo has signed on to keep performing at the hotel-casino through the end of next year.

The pair is still performing more than six years after they committed to six weeks of shows starting in September 2008.

The 90-minute variety show is scheduled to have performance dates every month in 2015 except in March, July, August and December. Tickets cost $95 to $260, not counting taxes and fees.

NYC theater plans live reading of 'The Interview'

NEW YORK (AP)—Sony may have scrapped the release of the movie "The Interview," but it will be in at least at one theater in New York City—onstage, that is.

Treehouse Theater said Monday it will put on a free reading of the film's script on Dec. 27, giving "an opportunity for people to come together in the name of free speech, in defiance of all who have threatened it."

Sony Pictures canceled the release of the movie "The Interview," a comedy that revolves around the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after receiving threats of terrorist attacks from hackers.

The Treehouse production will feature members of the comic Upright Citizen's Brigade theater and will be held in its 50-seat black box theater.

British singer Joe Cocker dies of lung cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Cocker, the raspy-voiced British singer known for his frenzied cover of "With a Little Help From My Friends," the teary ballad "You Are So Beautiful" and a contorted performing style uncannily parodied by John Belushi on "Saturday Night Live," has died. He was 70.

His London-based agent, Barrie Marshall, said Cocker died Monday of lung cancer in Colorado, where he has lived for the past two decades.

Cocker, an interpreter more than a writer, became a star through his dazzling transformation of the Beatles' "With a Little Help From My Friends." Featuring a gospel-styled arrangement and furious call and response between Cocker and the backup singers, the song became a No. 1 hit in England and the highlight of his characteristically manic set at the Woodstock festival in 1969.

In a statement Monday, Paul McCartney remembered hearing Cocker's cover of the song he and John Lennon co-wrote for Ringo Starr and finding it "just mind blowing," a "soul anthem."

"I was forever grateful for him for doing that," McCartney said. "I knew him through the years as a good mate, and I was so sad to hear that he had been ill and really sad to hear today that he had passed away."

Cocker's "Mad Dogs & Englishmen" tour and travelling party of 1970, featuring Leon Russell and numerous top session musicians, produced a film and a recording that went gold. But future success was more sporadic, and Cocker suffered from both drug and financial problems.

He had a top 10 hit in 1975 on "You Are So Beautiful," his voice cracking on the final, emotional note, and won a Grammy Award in 1983 for his "Up Where We Belong" duet with Jennifer Warnes, the theme of the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman."

His cover of Bryan Adams' "When the Night Comes" was featured in the film "An Innocent Man" and became a top 20 single in 1990.

Cocker, who received an Order of the British Empire in 2011 for his contribution to music, released 40 albums and continued to tour after the hits stopped. His other popular covers included "Feelin' Alright," "The Letter" and "Cry Me a River," a song previously recorded by one of Cocker's greatest influences, Ray Charles.

His voice, at times so worn it seemed in danger of shredding, was just one part of his legend. No Cocker fan could forget his intense, twitchy stage presence, his arms flailing, his hips stretching, his face contorting. Among those watching were Belushi, whose expert imitation became a feature of his early National Lampoon shows and eventually a part of popular history when he joined Cocker in 1976 for a duet of "Feelin' Alright" on "Saturday Night Live."

Years later, Cocker told The Associated Press' Mary Campbell that he was playing an imaginary piano and air guitar while singing—the elements that contributed to this unique style.

"That was the frustration of not being able to play, really," he said.

Cocker was born in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and was singing with local bands by the time he was a teenager. His early groups included Vance Arnold and the Avengers and the Grease Band, which backed him on "With A Little Help From My Friends."

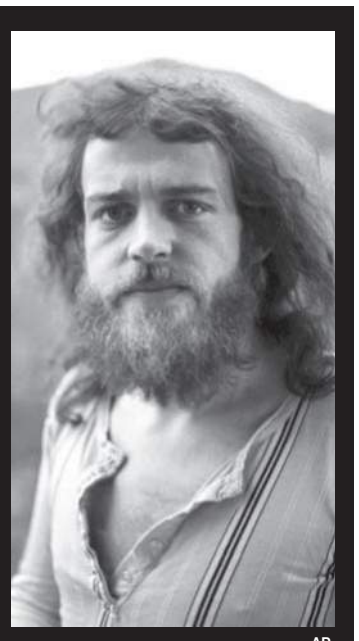
Cocker moved to Crawford, Colorado, a town of fewer than 500 people, in the early 1990s. He and his wife, Pam, ran a children's educational foundation—the Cocker Kids Foundation—that raised funds for the town and schools, and ran the Mad Dog Cafe for several years in town, said Tom Wills, publisher of The North Fork Merchant Herald, a local community newspaper.

Wills said Cocker bought about 40 acres of property and built a hillside mansion—which he called Mad Dog Ranch—when he moved to Colorado.

A group of Cocker's friends gathered Monday at community radio station KVNF to play Cocker's songs.

"He had a long battle with cancer. We're trying to do a little tribute for him," said Bob Pennetta, a real estate agent and board member of the Cocker Kids Foundation.

Cocker is survived by his wife, Pam; a brother; a step daughter and two grandchildren. A private memorial is planned. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Cocker Kids' Foundation, P.O. Box 404, Crawford, CO. 81415.



AP

In this June 1970 photo released by Linda Wolf, British singer Joe Cocker appears in Los Angeles after the Joe Cocker - Mad Dogs & Englishmen tour and traveling party.

Wife of transgender husband searches for ways to cope

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, my husband of four years disclosed to me that he's transgender. We have a 3-year-old who has medical problems, which has resulted in numerous surgeries. Our lives have changed beyond belief, and I'm afraid our marriage has been damaged beyond repair.

He has come out of the closet, and I have gone into one to protect his secret and hide my heartache and devastation. The pain I feel is mostly for the lifelong struggles my husband has endured, but now I'm feeling the loss of my husband and our happy future together because I can't be the wife he needs.

How do I know that I've tried every option to make this work, especially when I am the only one regularly seeking therapy? When do I resign myself to the fact that my expectations of our marriage will never be achievable? And how do I say I want out without risking his (her) well-being?

LAST STRAW IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR LAST STRAW: It would be helpful for you to get emotional support in addition to the counselor you have been seeing. There are no "magic words" to tell your husband you can no longer live with the new person he's becoming.

However, I know of a group that can help you. You would benefit greatly by contacting the Straight Spouse Network, a group that was started by Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., in the '80s. It offers peer support, as well as an online (worldwide) network of support groups. Just knowing you're not alone with this problem should be comforting. Find it at www.straightspouse.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been communicating for three months with a gentleman I met on an online dating site. He says he wants to meet me in person, but every time we get close to setting a time and place, something comes up and he can't keep the date. We live in the same city, so traveling isn't the problem. When I ask why he's canceling our date, the answer is different every time.

I am beginning to think he just wants to communicate via email or chat. We have web-cammed and know what each other looks like, so that is probably not the issue, either. Should I keep waiting him out or just end it?

PUZZLED IN INDIANA

DEAR PUZZLED: By now it should be obvious that you are carrying on a conversation with someone who doesn't keep his word. He may be married or have misrepresented himself in some other way. If you want a real, flesh-and-blood relationship with someone, stop wasting your time with this person. Move on and don't look back.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: With Christmas almost here, I'm wondering how much it would cost today for all of the gifts in the carol "The 12 Days of Christmas"?

JUST CURIOUS IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

DEAR JUST CURIOUS: According to an Associated Press story published this year quoting the annual analysis by PNC Wealth Management, those 364 items—purchasing them each time they are mentioned in the song—would set the giver back $116,273. Not to belittle those birds, trees, golden rings and various musical artists, perhaps the money could be better spent?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

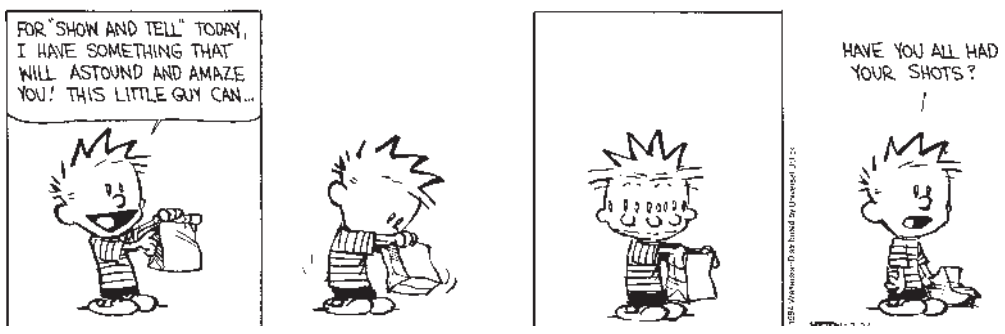
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

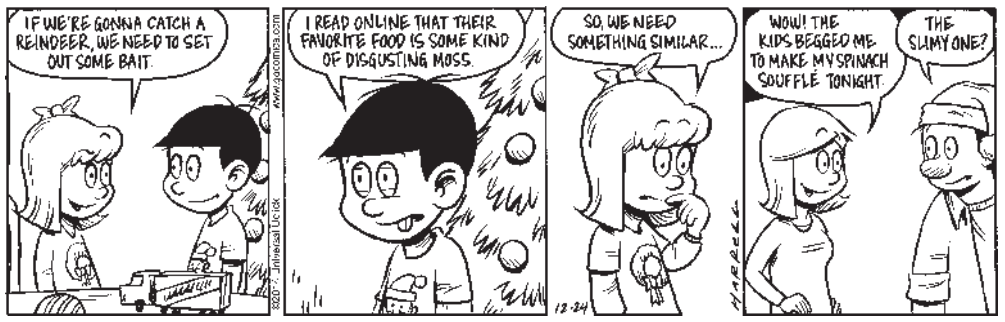


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IF WE'RE GONNA CATCH A REINDEER, WE NEED TO SET OUT SOME BAIT.
I READ ONLINE THAT THEIR FAVORITE FOOD IS SOME KIND OF DISGUSTING MOSS.
SO, WE NEED SOMETHING SIMILAR...
WOW! THE KIDS BEGGED ME TO MAKE MY SPINACH SOUFFLÉ TONIGHT.
THE SLIMY ONE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE THE WHOLE TOWN IS CHIPPING IN MONEY TO SAVE GEORGE BAILEY.
HERE'S TEN DOLLARS! HERE'S FIVE MORE!
HEY, EVERYONE! I JUST GOT A TELEGRAM FROM SAM WAINWRIGHT SAYING HE'LL WIRE TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS!
HEE-HAW.!!
GIVE ME MY MONEY BACK!
YEAH! I WANT MY MONEY BACK!
ME, TOO!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

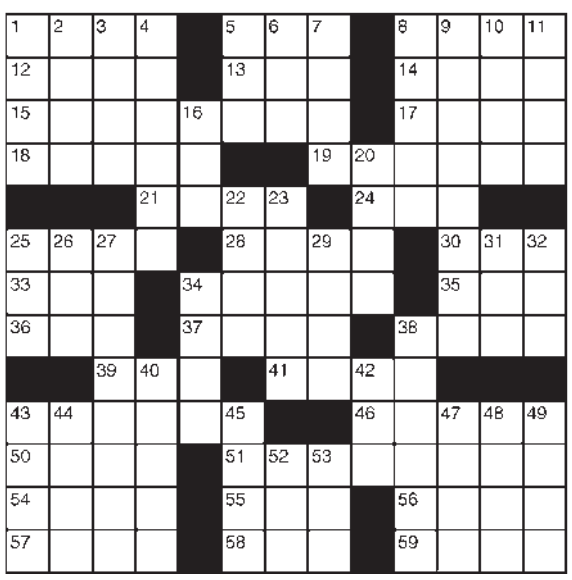
ACROSS
1 Prop for Harry Potter
5 "Chicago" lyricist Fred
8 Pack away
12 Sheltered
13 Chinese chairman
14 "Les Misér-ables" author
15 Economic decline
17 Vicinity
18 Fight
19 Began to appear
21 Tiny bit
24 Popular card game
25 MPs' quarry
28 "The Caine Mutiny" author
30 Cistern
33 Head of st.
34 Colonial family
35 Prior night
36 Farm parent
37 Second-hand
38 Raised
39 Mate of 36-Across
41 Time gone by
43 Ab exercises
46 1945 confer-ence site
50 Blood-hound's clue
51 Make less intense
54 Radius neighbor
55 Mimic
56 Pork piece
57 Rind
58 Cudgel
59 Sicilian spouter

DOWN
1 Bankrolls
2 Shaving cream additive
3 Salaman-der
4 Insurance category
5 Ostrich's cousin
6 Prohibit
7 Connec-tion
8 Actor Wallace
9 Triangu-lar pastry
10 Curved molding
11 Herb yielding a blue dye
16 Young-ster
20 Diving flock
22 Hasn't paid
23 Lucre
25 Census statistic
26 "Holy mack-erel!"
27 Shading
29 Loosen
31 "Hail, Caesar!"
32 Danson of "CSI"
34 Shoe style
38 Parish official
40 Ear-related
42 "Catcher in the —"
43 Opening course, often
44 Between jobs
45 Impale
47 Booty
48 Look-alike
49 Faris of "Mom"
52 — -Locka, Fla.
53 Profit

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	P	E	C	■	A	M	I	■	D	A	M	S
A	R	E	A	■	W	A	N	■	I	N	O	N
C	O	N	T	R	A	C	T	■	S	T	O	A
■	■	■	N	A	Y	■	F	B	I	N	G	■
C	R	E	A	M	■	D	R	E	A	■	■	■
H	E	L	P	■	C	O	N	T	R	I	V	E
I	D	A	■	B	L	U	E	S	■	B	I	D
C	O	N	T	R	A	S	T	■	F	I	L	E
■	■	■	H	A	V	E	■	A	U	D	E	N
S	A	L	A	M	I	■	I	N	N	■	■	■
I	T	E	M	■	C	O	N	T	R	I	T	E
D	O	N	E	■	L	U	C	■	U	R	A	L
E	P	O	S	■	E	R	A	■	N	E	R	F

Yesterday's answer 12-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Seacrest, 40; Stephenie Meyer, 41; Ricky Martin, 43; Diedrich Bader, 48.

Happy Birthday: Clear vision will be necessary if you want to accomplish your goals. Having too many interests or spreading yourself too thin will lead to confusion. Use your skills and innovative imagination wisely. Having a sense of purpose behind whatever you do will help you stick to realistic and practical applications that will make it easier to achieve what you set out to do. Your numbers are 2, 17, 22, 25, 31, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Listen attentively and offer innovative suggestions, but don't get into debates. Getting along with family is not always easy, and keeping the peace will be in your best interest. Look at the big picture and be gracious in all your dealings. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Travel about and share information, memories and future plans. Spend time helping elderly relatives or youngsters who need assistance. Your gestures will be appreciated and repaid in interesting and thoughtful manners. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): This can be a difficult day where money matters are concerned. Look for ways to cut costs and it will relieve the stress you are feeling. Offer to lend a helping hand rather than an expensive present. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): What you give, you will get in return. Don't put a dollar figure on love. What comes from the heart will end up meaning so much more. A personal partnership will go through a development that will bring about change in the new year. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Looking for a special gift for someone you love won't measure up to spending quality time together. Talking from the heart will be what makes a difference to the ones you love. Live in the moment, and love unconditionally. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stay on top of your financial situation and you will enjoy the festivities. Socializing and sharing with people you don't get to see often will bring you closer to your roots and help you find ways to maintain contact in the new year. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Drop in to see friends, relatives or neighbors, and you will have a great time. A heartfelt approach to the activities and events you attend will attract plenty of attention. Don't let someone's jealousy ruin your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Refuse to talk about private emotional issues with anyone. Keeping your life a secret will help you avoid backlash from someone looking for an excuse to pick on you. Stick close to your biggest supporters. Love conquers all. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Problems with authority figures will lead to an unsavory situation. Don't drink and drive or do anything that goes against rules or regulations. Stick close to home and make improvements that will please friends and family. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep secrets tucked away in a safe place. Don't make changes based on what someone else does. Follow your instincts and do what works best for you. Observation will save you from making a big mistake. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Discipline coupled with innovation and the willingness to make positive changes will be admired. Share your plans and honest suggestions will be made that will help you make personal and professional changes in the new year. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reconnect with people from your past, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone is likely to embellish what's been going on and what's to come. Focus on truth and know in your heart that we are all responsible for our own happiness. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and persuasive. You are a leader, not a follower.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	5					
		9		1				
		8			6			
		6				7		
		1	6	9	4	8	5	
9				3				
6		5	8	2	1	4	3	7
	1							9
		3	4	7	9	1	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	6	1	8	4	9	7	3
1	3	4	7	2	9	8	5	6
8	9	7	3	6	5	2	4	1
2	7	5	4	9	3	1	6	8
3	6	1	2	5	8	7	9	4
9	4	8	6	1	7	5	3	2
6	5	9	8	3	2	4	1	7
7	1	2	9	4	6	3	8	5
4	8	3	5	7	1	6	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COOKING WITH YOUR KIDS **Solution: 6 letters**

P	T	A	S	K	B	B	N	O	S	A	E	S	T	S
G	O	A	L	C	R	U	A	A	E	L	T	S	E	P
N	B	U	P	L	E	T	L	K	Z	N	E	C	X	A
I	B	L	R	E	N	T	P	Z	E	Z	S	H	T	T
X	R	W	E	A	N	E	I	M	E	N	I	O	U	U
I	E	O	P	N	I	R	P	C	O	I	M	P	R	L
M	A	B	A	U	D	I	N	O	C	Ⓢ	P	M	E	A
A	K	G	R	P	U	E	P	T	Ⓝ	H	L	U	S	H
S	F	N	E	Q	I	S	R	Ⓐ	Y	T	E	F	A	S
H	A	I	E	T	G	P	Ⓟ	S	T	E	W	F	L	I
C	S	P	A	G	E	R	S	T	E	P	A	I	T	N
N	T	P	E	E	O	E	H	E	R	B	S	N	E	R
U	N	O	L	N	R	A	G	U	S	T	H	S	A	A
L	G	H	F	O	O	D	I	S	H	E	T	A	R	G
B	A	S	E	I	H	T	O	O	M	S	L	A	E	M

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Apron, Base, Blender, Bowl, Breakfast, Bulk, Butter, Chef, Chop, Cleanup, Dinner, Dish, Drizzle, Eggs, Equipment, Food, Garnish, Grate, Herbs, List, Lunch, Mash, Meals, Mixing, Muffins, Pans, Patience, Peel, Pestle, Pizza, Plan, Pour, Prepare, Safety, Season, Shopping, Simple, Smoothies, Spatula, Spoon, Spread, Step, Stew, Sugar, Task, Taste, Tear, Textures, Wash, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Goddess

Purchase **Treasury 15 & Treasury 16** in time for the holidays! Order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. (Each contains 130 puzzles.)

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff, v. FRANCES C. QUICHOCHO Defendant.	) CIVIL ACTION) NO.: 14-0206)) SUMMONS) (For Publication)

TO: FRANCES C. QUICHOCHO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED: November 18, 2014

/s/ Adelpha Kapileo
CLERK OF COURT

Third Publication

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Middle Road, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 506057
SAIPAN, MP 96950
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FAX: (670) 233-0776

Court-appointed Trustee

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHO, SEONG JEO, Plaintiff, -v- PARK JAE HYUN, et al. Defendants.	) **CIVIL ACTION**) **NO. 13-0161**) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Superior Court will hold a hearing to determine claims to surplus funds delivered to the Court arising out of foreclosure of Tract No. H 246 in the above-captioned matter. On September 14, 2014, the Court appointed the Trustee of record, Daniel T. Guidotti of Marianas Pacific Law LLC, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 506057, Saipan, MP 96950 to assist the Court with determining entitlement to the surplus funds.

The hearing in this matter is set for **February 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** in courtroom 220 of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan.

All persons having claims to these should file their claims with the Trustee and the Superior Court as soon as possible, but in any event, no later than December 31, 2015.

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/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
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Bengals beat Broncos to reach playoffs

CINCINNATI (AP)—With everything on the line, the Bengals picked off Peyton Manning in the closing minutes—twice, no less—and ran themselves right back into the playoffs.

One breakthrough win gave them a chance for another.

Dre Kirkpatrick returned Manning's third interception of the game for a touchdown in the closing minutes on Monday night, completing a rain-soaked rally for a 37-28 victory over the Denver Broncos and a spot in the playoffs.

The Bengals (10-4-1) secured a playoff berth for the fourth consecutive season, a franchise record. They'll play in Pittsburgh next Sunday night, with the winner taking the AFC North title.

And then, Cincinnati will get yet another chance to break one of the longest playoff droughts in NFL history—no postseason victory since the 1990 season. First, they go to Pittsburgh to determine when and where they'll play.

"Well, we have another hump day next week," coach Marvin Lewis said.

Kirkpatrick's 30-yard return with 2:41 left capped a game of big plays—long runs, big kick returns and two interceptions run back for scores. With 67 seconds left, Kirkpatrick picked off Manning again to clinch it.

"I'm not saying I knew he was going to do that," Kirkpatrick said. "The guy changes plays. He's a first-ballot Hall of Famer. When he came back to my side, I was waiting for the ball."

Manning rallied the Broncos (11-4) to three touchdowns in the third quarter and a lead, but finished with a season-high four interceptions. The loss handed New England home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher is tackled by Denver Broncos free safety Rahim Moore (26) during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, in Cincinnati.

"I shouldn't have thrown it," said Manning, who was 28 of 44 for 311 yards with two touchdowns. "Four interceptions, you're not going to beat many good football teams."

The AFC West champions failed in their attempt to clinch a first-round bye and came away with more questions about Manning, who was limited in practice during the week because of a strained right thigh.

Denver scored 21 points in the third quarter, with Manning throwing a pair of touchdowns to Emmanuel Sanders. With a chance to pull off his 51st game-winning drive in a heavy rain, Manning threw a sideline pass directly to Kirkpatrick, who ran it back untouched.

Manning had been 8-0 career against the Bengals with 20 touchdown passes and only five interceptions. He nearly matched that total in one game.

Demaryius Thomas had seven catches for 115 yards, setting a club record with his ninth 100-yard game of the season.

Andy Dalton settled down after a huge early mistake - an overthrown pass that Aqib Talib returned for a touchdown - and rookie Jeremy Hill led a dominating running game that finished with 207 yards overall. Hill had an 85-yard touchdown run with 147 overall, going over 1,000 for the season.

Hill played a starring role in the Bengals' playoff drive.

"I know a lot of guys are never fortunate enough to make the playoffs," said Hill, a second-round pick from LSU. "In college, I wanted to play for a national championship but never got the chance."

The Monday night win was a breakthrough for the Bengals, who had been blown out in their two prime-time games this season and came in 18-41 all-time at night. They have one more left in Pittsburgh next Sunday.

The dominant running game immensely helped Dalton, who is 3-6 all-time in prime time. He started badly again on Monday, overthrowing A.J. Green for an interception that Talib returned 33 yards for a touchdown. Dalton finished 17 of 26 for 146 yards with two touchdowns and the one interception.

"You can't let one bad play hurt you more than just that one bad play," Dalton said.

Green was hit in the right upper arm on the interception and was in and out of the game the rest of the way. He was held without a catch for only the second time in his career.

Phil Hughes, Twins agree to $58M, 5-year contract

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Phil Hughes finished his first season in Minnesota one out shy of a $500,000 bonus. His new deal with the Twins more than takes care of that.

The Twins and the 28-year-old right-hander agreed Monday to a $58 million, five-year contract that adds $42 million in guaranteed money from 2017-19.

Hughes went 16-10 with a 3.52 ERA and led the major leagues among qualifying pitchers with an 11.63 strikeout-to-walk ratio. He had been scheduled to make $8 million each of the next two seasons as part of a $24 million, three-year contract he signed as a free agent after leaving the New York Yankees.

He will make $9.2 million in each of the next two years and $13.2 million annually from 2017-19. The deal includes $200,000 per year if he reaches 200 innings pitched and a limited no-trade provision in which he can designate three teams each year that he cannot be traded to without his permission. He would have full no-trade rights after 2018 as a 10-year veteran who has spent five seasons with his current team.

"I didn't want it to be a deal where I came in for three years, saw this team get back on the right track, and then, `Thanks for everything, thanks for having faith in me, and see you later,' " Hughes said. "I want to be part of this for years to come. I believe in the process and the direction this team is going. I'm very excited that I can be a part of that change."

In what was another long season for the Twins' starting rotation, Hughes was the one guy the team could rely on each time he took the mound. He was coming off a woeful season with the Yankees in which he went 4-14 with a 5.19 ERA and he had given up 59 home runs over his previous two seasons. Hughes was revitalized in pitcher-friendly Target Field.

Hughes allowed 16 homers and walked 16 batters, becoming the sixth pitcher in baseball history to walk fewer than 20 batters while pitching at least 200 innings in a season.

As part of the original deal he signed with the Twins before last season, Hughes would have received a $500,000 bonus for reaching 210 innings pitched. But he finished with 209 2-3 and turned down a chance to pitch out of the bullpen over the final weekend of the season to earn the extra money.

SIDEBAR

Murray impresses Cowboys playing with broken hand

IRVING, Texas (AP)—NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray had Dallas coach Jason Garrett believing he would play with a broken hand almost as soon as the injury happened.

Once the star running back made it through a playoff-clinching win over Indianapolis, it hardly mattered that he had a season-low 58 yards. The impact of his decision on the Cowboys couldn't be measured that way.

"The mindset and mentality that he had - starting in the locker room last week, on the plane ride, after the surgery," Garrett said. "He just didn't waver. `I'm playing, coach. Coach, I'm playing. Coach, I'm playing.' It was with a look that was so determined that its impact on our football team was so strong."

Murray broke his left hand in a win at Philadelphia that gave the Cowboys (11-4) the NFC East lead. He had surgery the next day, was doing individual drills with protective padding two days after that, and had 22 carries in a 42-7 win over the Colts that clinched the division title and ended Dallas' four-year playoff drought.

"It affected me a little bit," said Murray, who matched his season low in per-carry average at 2.6 yards from the previous week against the Eagles.

The way the game played out, the Cowboys really didn't need him. His most significant contribution was a 1-yard plunge that capped four straight possessions with a touchdown to start the game, giving Dallas a 28-0 lead.

But the fact he was out there could reverberate in the playoffs and beyond, with the 26-year-old Murray's contract up and the Cowboys having to decide whether and how much to pay him.

"This day with DeMarco Murray is going to be one that I'll never forget," Garrett said. "He's about as tough a guy I know mentally. He's about as tough a guy as I know physically. It's not easy to do what he did."

Owner Jerry Jones said Murray came out of the game with "flying colors."

"That's easy for us to sit here and talk about him coming through in flying colors," Jones said. "How would you like to have your hand broken and go up through there and have everybody and 20-something players out there to step on it or hit it."

The Cowboys are in an interesting position for their regular-season finale at Washington (4-11). Dallas still has a shot at a first-round bye, but doesn't even have to win in the most likely scenario for getting it.

As for the question of sitting Tony Romo and other regulars, Murray needs just 29 yards to break all-time NFL rushing leader Emmitt Smith's franchise record of 1,773 yards from 1995. Garrett said that won't weigh into the decision of who plays or how long they play.

"And it's not important to DeMarco either," Garrett said Monday. "It's good for our football team when DeMarco is running the ball well and we control the game by running the football. But the idea that we're going to get a player some kind of statistic, it's not really part of our thinking."

Murray, who's never made it through a full season without missing games because of injury, dodged a question two weeks ago about how important it was to him to play all 16 games. He clearly answered it Sunday against the Colts.

"I'm not going to lie," said receiver Dez Bryant, who caught his NFL-leading 14th touchdown pass against Indianapolis. "There was a lot of doubt, he probably wasn't going to play. I knew he was going to play. If he can walk, if he can catch, he can do. And that's exactly what he did."

Parker returns, leads Spurs past Clippers

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—San Antonio point guard Tony Parker watched helplessly as the Spurs were drained emotionally and physically by four straight defeats, including a pair of crushing losses at home in triple overtime.

He saw the frustration and despair weigh on his teammates, especially longtime running mate Manu Ginobili, who was forced to play extended minutes as the team's lone playmaker.

Parker wanted to give San Antonio a lift, and he did so in a big way.

He scored 26 points in his return from a five-game absence, igniting the Spurs to a season-high 37 assists and a 125-118 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

"It was a great relief for everybody (to have Parker back), and he made us play better and with more confidence," said Ginobili, who had a season-high 10 assists.

San Antonio shot a season-high 64 percent from the field.

Tim Duncan had 21 points and 12 rebounds, Boris Diaw scored 23 points and Ginobili added 19 for the Spurs (18-11), who had lost three straight home games in overtime.

Those losses took a toll on the Spurs, even Parker, who sat out with a strained left hamstring.

"It was hard to watch," Parker said. "A tough time, so I was just trying to bring energy and be aggressive."

Parker showed no lingering effects from the injury that kept him out of eight of the past nine games. He played 34 minutes, shooting 11 for 18 from the field and collecting four assists.

"He says he feels great," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "I'm scared to death about it, but I'm just going to trust him. He has been around for a long time, and he doesn't want to reinjure himself. Hopefully, he's OK."

Parker collected a steal on San Antonio's opening defensive possession and made his initial jumper and first two free throws.

Parker's ability to penetrate reinvigorated the Spurs' ball movement, providing the "good-to-great" mantra that Popovich preached last season. San Antonio had a season-high 72 points in the first half, shooting 75 percent while handing out 20 assists on its 30 baskets.

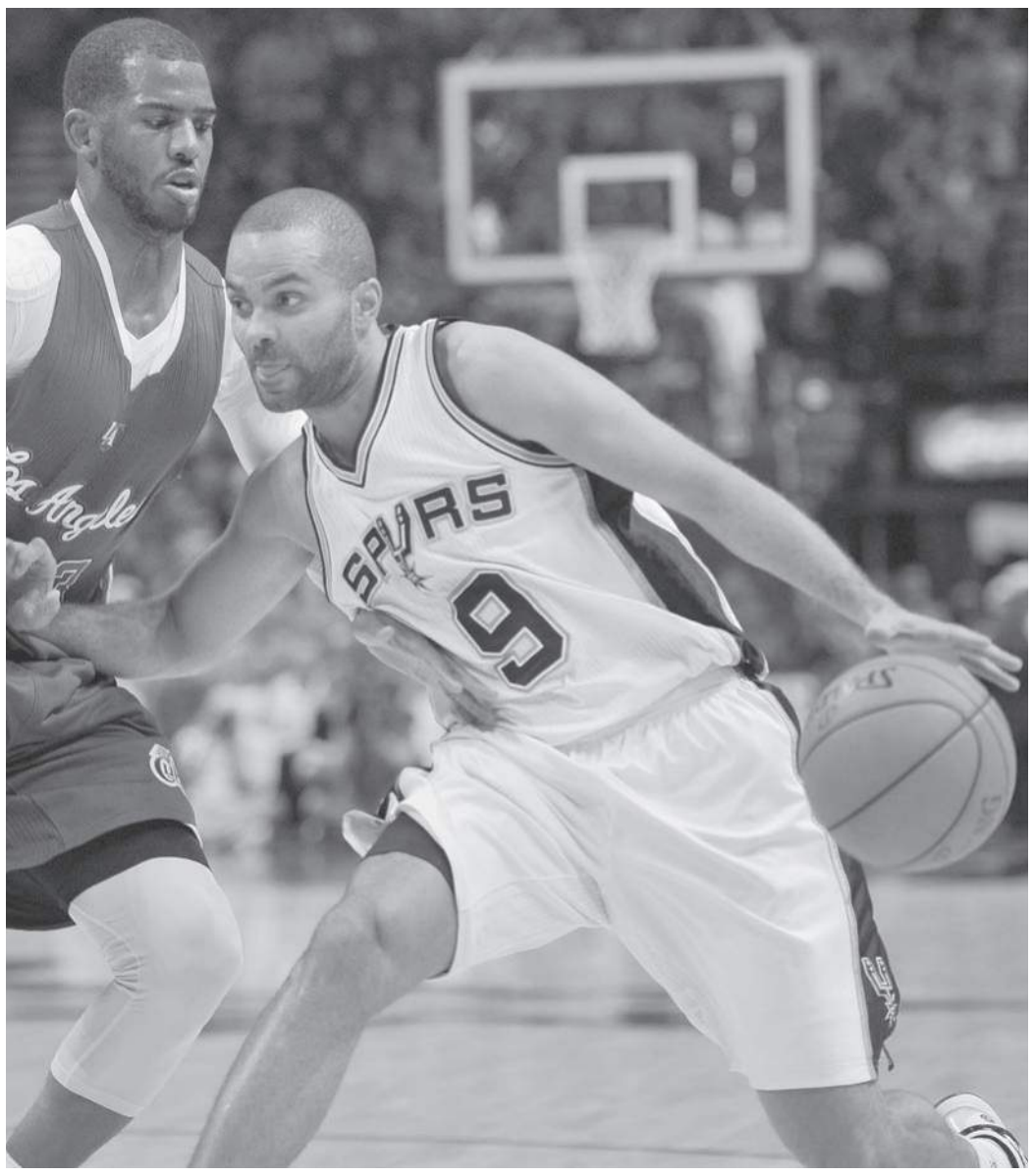
"They shot the lights out (of) the ball tonight," said Clippers point guard Chris Paul said. "At the same time, you've got to try to impose your will on defense. (At) some point, you can't hope they miss, you have to make them miss."

Paul had 25 points and nine assists, Blake Griffin added 22 points and J.J. Redick had 21 for the Clippers (19-9), who have lost four straight to San Antonio.

Jamal Crawford's jumper tied it at 102 with 8:17 remaining, the first tie since the opening minute of the second quarter. The Spurs hit three 3-pointers after that, including Ginobili flipping a left-handed pass behind his head to Danny Green for a 115-106 lead with 4 minutes remaining.

It was part of a rejuvenated performance by Ginobili, who shot an airball on a 3-pointer at the close of the third overtime against Memphis and had several untimely turnovers late while playing all three overtimes against the Grizzlies and Portland Trail Blazers.

"That's why I felt pain for him," Parker said. "I know usually we take turns on who's going to play the pick-and-rolls and who's going to create. All three overtimes it was him the whole time and so he was super tired. I felt bad for him."



AP

San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, of France, drives around Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul, left, during the first half an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, in San Antonio.

Bulls 129, Raptors 120

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 29 points, Jimmy Butler added 27 points and 11 rebounds, and the Chicago Bulls snapped the Toronto Raptors' six-game winning streak with a 129-120 victory on Monday night.

Rose scored 15 of the Bulls' franchise-record 49 points in the fourth quarter.

Chicago, who has won three straight, got Rose and Taj Gibson back after each missed two games. Rose was ill and Gibson was out with an ankle injury.

Rose's jumper over Kyle Lowry put the Bulls up 106-100 with 4:12 left. He put away the game with a 3-pointer to make it 118-105 with 1:17 left.

Lowry scored 34 points and Jonas Valanciunas finished with 20 for Toronto, which led by 12 in the third quarter. Lowry scored 18 points in the fourth.

After Lowry's runner gave the Raptors a one-point lead, Chicago scored six to make it 100-95. Rose and Joakim Noah had back-to-back baskets and Nikola Mirotic capped it off with a pair of free throws before Raptors coach Dwane Casey burned a timeout with the Chicago crowd on its feet.

Mirotic finished with 12 points and Aaron Brooks had 17 points off the bench.

James Johnson put the Raptors up 80-68 with 6:35 left in the third quarter, but the Bulls scored eight unanswered to tie it in the final minute of the period. Pau Gasol found Gibson for an alley-oop dunk to tie the game at 80.

James Johnson finished with 16 points for the Raptors.

The Raptors began a six-game road trip on Monday after playing a league-high 17 home games.

Rockets 110, Trail Blazers 95

In Houston, James Harden scored a season-high 44 points to help Houston cruise past Portland and snap a two-game skid.

The Trail Blazers were without leading scorer and rebounder LaMarcus Aldridge, who missed the game with an upper-respiratory illness, and had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Harden had 31 in the first half to help the Rockets erase an early eight-point deficit and take a 20-point halftime lead. It was Harden's NBA-leading third 40-point game this season, with all of them coming this month.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 18 points and CJ McCollum added 17.

Hornets 110, Nuggets 82

In Charlotte, Al Jefferson scored 22 points, Kemba Walker added 18 points and nine assists, and Charlotte extended its winning streak to a season-high three games.

Rookie P.J. Hairston recorded his first career double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Jefferson and Walker combined to shoot 15 of 25 from the field and didn't play in the fourth quarter with the game well in hand.

Charlotte improved to 3-0 since Gerald Henderson replaced the injured Lance Stephenson in the starting lineup. Stephenson, who has been the subject of trade rumors, is out at least one more game with a groin injury.

Ty Lawson had 18 points for Denver.

Hawks 105, Mavericks 102

In Dallas, Dennis Schroder scored a career-high 22 points and Atlanta held off Dallas.

The Hawks (20-7) won all three games on their road trip. The Southeast Division leaders have a four-game winning streak overall, and have won 13 of their last 14.

All five Atlanta starters scored in double figures. Kyle Korver scored 18, Al Horford had 17, DeMarre Carroll put in 15 and Paul Millsap added 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Monta Ellis led the Mavericks with 18 points, 11 in a fourth quarter when they outscored the Hawks 39-23.

Jazz 97, Grizzlies 91

In Memphis, Alec Burks scored 23 points, Gordon Hayward added 21 and Utah handed Memphis its third straight loss.

The Jazz withstood a late push by hitting eight of 10 free throws down the stretch for their third win in the last four.

Derrick Favors finished with 15 points, while Enes Kanter added 13 points and nine rebounds. Rudy Gobert managed only two points, missing five of his six shots, but had a career-best 16 rebounds and two blocks as the Jazz dominated the boards 49-34.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 28 points and his two 3-pointers down the stretch kept the Grizzlies close. Marc Gasol finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds. Courtney Lee had 13 points and Vince Carter added 12 on 4 of 7 shooting.

Warriors 128, Kings 108

In Oakland, Klay Thompson scored 25 points, Stephen Curry had 12 points and 11 assists, and Golden State eased past Sacramento.

Festus Ezeli scored a career-high 15 points to go with six rebounds in place of injured center Andrew Bogut, helping the Warriors hold a big lead most of the way.

Golden State stretched its NBA-best record to 23-3.

DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points and eight rebounds, and Darren Collison scored 17 points in Sacramento's latest blowout loss to its Northern California rival. The Warriors whipped the Kings 95-77 on opening night in Sacramento and have won six consecutive games in the series, including all four last season.

Sacramento has lost 11 of 14 games, a slide that started when Cousins came down with viral meningitis and missed 10 games. The Kings also fired Michael Malone as coach last week, and uncertainty about how long interim coach Tyrone Corbin will man the sidelines has lingered since.

"We all need to stick together," Corbin said.

The Warriors got off to a fast start and controlled the game by doing what they have most of the season: clog the paint on defense, push the pace and move the ball.

SIDEBAR

Rockets favored to sign Josh Smith

DETROIT (AP)—The Houston Rockets are emerging as the strongest suitor to sign forward Josh Smith, league sources said.

After the Detroit Pistons made the stunning move of releasing Smith, he's expected to clear waivers on Wednesday and become an unrestricted free agent. The Pistons owed Smith $26 million on his contract running through the 2016 season.

Houston has aggressively pursued Smith for the past two years, failing in the summer of 2013 to agree to a sign-and-trade agreement with Atlanta to acquire him. Before ultimately signing a four-year $56 million deal with Detroit, Smith had long had interest in finding a way to join the Rockets, sources said.

Houston briefly discussed trade possibilities with Detroit this season, but it was impossible for the Rockets to have absorbed his salary without giving up Dwight Howard or James Harden, sources said.

Howard is a childhood friend of Smith's, dating to their days growing up in Atlanta, and is a strong advocate of signing Smith. He'll be part of recruiting Smith to sign with the Rockets.

The Rockets, Los Angeles Clippers, Sacramento Kings, Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat have already expressed an interest in signing Smith to Smith's representatives, league sources said.

Houston can use its biannual exception—worth $2.077 million annually—to lure Smith. Most teams with an interest in Smith, including the Clippers, Kings, Mavericks and Heat, can offer only the veteran's minimum of $1.4 million.

The Rockets want to utilize Smith's ability to block shots, rebound and pass as a unique complement at the power forward to Howard. Clearly, Smith's shot selection has to improve, but the Rockets are strong believers in the corner 3-point shot, especially with their ability to offensive rebound.

Hustlers, Titans clash for Thursday 8-Ball crown

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Route33 Armatech Hustlers aim to end their amazing season with the Budweiser Cup Thursday 8-Ball Billiards League title in tow when they take on the Poseidon Titans tomorrow night.

The Hustlers, the regular season titlists, visit the Titans in the Christmas day finale at the latter's home bar in Garapan. They arranged a title showdown after dispatching separate opponents last week.

The Hustlers downed Wild Bill's, 9-3, while the Titans outlasted Jonny's Team SCS, 9-6, in a pair of race-to-9 semifinal matches.

The Route33 and Armatech-backed squad dominated Wild Bill's early in the first set of the singles events. The Hustlers, after splitting the opening partner's 8-Ball, won 4 of the 5 singles matches to gain complete control.

The pairs of Jerry Soriano and Senen Pangilinan and Robert Sanciangco, and Simon Kapileo defeated the Wild Bill's tandem of Juancho Mendoza and Victor Formales and Rey Parangay, and Nong Detdon to move the Hustlers within two victories from wrapping up the contest, 7-2.

Soriano and Oscar Sablan's wins over Mendoza and Detdon sandwiched Parangay's conquering of Pangilinan, which was Wild Bill's last victory.

The Titans, meanwhile, struck in the last singles 8-Ball events, winning four of the five matches to turn a 5-4 deficit to an 8-6 advantage.

Randy Sablan, Ray Matsunaga, Patrick Cepeda, and Jack Thornsaket delivered for the Titans after beating Team SCS' Joey Paranada, Bryan Fabre, Jerry Tiu and Erwin Gomez, respectively.

Cepeda and Matsunaga sealed the win for the Titans when they outlasted Gomez and Tiu in the final Partners' 8-Ball event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Poseidon Titans and Jonny's Team SCS pose for a group photo before their semifinals match last week in the Budweiser Cup Thursday 8-Ball League. The Titans defeated Team SCS, 9-6, to arrange a title match with the Route33 Armatech Hustlers.

Crawford is ESPN fighter of the year

In 2013, lightweight Terence Crawford gave fight fans a glimpse of what was to come when he fearlessly moved up to junior welterweight to take an HBO-televised fight on short notice against dangerous puncher Breidis Prescott.

While there were some on Crawford's team concerned about the fight, his first scheduled 10-rounder and first significant television exposure against easily his best opponent, Crawford was cool as could be. And on fight night he delivered a dominating performance in a near-shutout decision win. He had announced his arrival and went on to win two more lopsided fights last year to move closer to the top of the 135-pound division.

As good of a year as he had in 2013, Crawford, known as "Bud" to his hometown fans in Omaha, Nebraska, had an even better 2014 campaign and established himself as the world's No. 1 lightweight.

The 27-year-old Crawford truly arrived. For his tremendous campaign, he is the 2014 ESPN.com fighter of the year.

Umpires course to resume next week

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five-day Level I umpiring certification course, being conducted by Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, will take a Christmas break and will resume next week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Rogolifoi said three aspiring umpires have religiously attended the last three sessions, which started last Thursday. Sessions were also held from 6pm to 8pm last Friday and Monday night. Each class lasted for two hours and an aspiring umpire must complete the 10-hour course to earn the certificate.

"We just covered the basic rules and the complicated ones so they would know what to do in making the hard decisions in every game," said Rogolifoi, who has conducted six hours of the five-day course.

The classes resume on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29 and 30 at 6pm.

Rogolifoi said that after the class sessions he would give a written exam, composed of 38 questions, to the three aspiring umpires.

"The passing grade is 71 percent and after the exam I'm taking them outside on Jan. 3 to see how they would apply what they've learned during the five-day umpiring certification course," he added.

Rogolifoi said baseball leagues on Saipan need new umpires, particularly for the Little League program.

In related news, the Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director said that he would also give out certificates to seven individuals who passed a similar umpiring certification course on Rota last year.

"I spent a week on Rota and 10 joined the umpiring certification course with seven of them passing the similar tests I conducted there," Rogolifoi said.

Rogolifoi also conducted coaching and players clinic for baseball on Rota and the weeklong trip and clinics were funded by the Division of Youth Services.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An umpire watches action at third base during last season's game in the Senior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball.

NMSA

From Page 28

ance for the renovation.

"We're holding on with the figures for the construction. We consulted an engineer at A&E Design for the project and we're going to submit the figures to NMHC so we could start with the bidding process," added Rogolifoi.

The former Sports and Recreation Division director said NMSA wants to make sure there won't be any discrepancy with the figures to ensure the smooth flow of the bidding process.

NMSA officials will still review the figures before submitting them to NMHC. They are planning to begin the bidding process for the project by January and are hoping renovation will start by March.

NMSA aims to open the track facility by May in time for several Northern Marianas Athletics-organized events. Oceania Athletics Association president Geoff Gardner said at least two months are needed in putting the adhesive and laying out the new rubber surface.

Gardner and other OAA officials, who visited Saipan last October to inspect the track facility, wanted to make sure proper resurfacing will be done for the track to last longer.

The new track oval, once completed, will have a light blue color not the usual pinkish-red hue.

Resurfacing of the track is NMHC's only approved project for this year and NMSA is aiming to get the facility back to its Level II certification by the International Association of Athletics Federations in time for two international events.

NMA is planning to bid for the hosting rights for the 2017 Micronesian Athletics Championships, while the CNMI through NMSA won the bidding for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, bringing the quadrennial meet to the island for the first time.

SWIMMERS

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ing the event in 1:38.58. In the women's over 17, Rivera logged 1:36.02, eclipsing her 1:38.11, while in the boys 9 to 19 division, Suzuki registered 2:20.62 to break his PBT of 2:21.10.

Tsunami Saipan's Ayumi Obligacion and Kenta Tomi swam the 100m breaststroke for the first time and clocked in at 2:06.84 and 2:04.61, respectively, while Jhota Yoshima missed a PBT after recording 1:50.30.

In the 100m backstroke event, two Tsunami Saipan bets got PBTs. Aika Watanabe joined the girls 11 to 12 race and her 1:34.73 shattered her old PBT of 1:38.02. In the boys 9 to 10 age group, Juhn Tenorio touched the block at the 1:29.22 to crush his best of 1:29.94.

In the 50m butterfly, six swimmers gained PBTs. Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran had the biggest drop in the event with her 39.54 seconds (from 42.26 seconds). Kyona Rivera raced against Gauran in the girls 11 to 16 age group and had a faster time at 39.30 seconds, which broke the former's old PBT (41.67 seconds).

In the boys 9 to 10, Tsunami Saipan's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero's new PBT read at 38.97 seconds (from 39 seconds), while SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki registered 40.22 seconds (from 40.73 seconds). In the boys 11 to 12, Ryuto Yanai topped the three-swimmer race with his 34.39 seconds, .22 of a second faster than his previous PBT (34.61). He beat teammate Nelson Battallones, who also got a PBT (37.91 seconds from 38.01) and Lennosule Suzuki (38.50 seconds).

In the 50m backstroke, majority of the participants posted PBTs with swimmers in the boys U8 age group getting the most with four.

The Top 4 finishers in the race got PBTs with Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu ruling the event with his 44.43 seconds. Xu's teammate Isaiah Aleksenko came in at second with his PBT of 48.01 seconds, followed by another Tsunami Saipan bet Aasish Dangol (59.67 seconds) and SSC's Jeffrey Sheu (1:00.57).

In the girls U8, three made PBTS. Tsunami Saipan's Kana Suzuki led the list with her 55.92 seconds and was joined by SSC's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez and Tsunami Saipan's Seiyul Hong (1:11.13). Three swimmers also notched PBTs in the girls 9 to 10 division. The list includes Tsunami Saipan's Jewel Combinido (51.71 seconds), Nagtsuki Nagata (51.83 seconds), and Obligacion (1:04.13).

Rounding out the PBT getters in the 50m backstroke were girls 13 to 14 and Tsunami Saipan's Kathrine Illahi (45.57 seconds), boys 9 to 10 and SSC's Richard Villagomez (54 seconds), boys 11 to 12 and Tsunami Saipan's Ja Min Elliot (58.27 seconds), and boys 13 to 14's Mark Maestro (38.23 seconds).

Meanwhile, results of other events will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday's edition.

SONICS

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Jesse Santos led Kagman with his 18 points, but was limited to two field goals in the second half. Kagman had a depleted crew against the complete roster of Rollers 1 with the former fielding only five players in its debut game.

In the other U19 pairing, the Sonics controlled the match right at the opening tiff and were never threatened.

The Sonics built an early double-digit spread at the break, 30-14, with four of their players scoring at least 5 points each.

Emerson Feria and Jomac Manzano paced the Sonics with their 14 points each, while Jack Aranda and Jaymark De Guzman also finished in twin digits with 11 apiece. Tristan Montes was the lone double figure scorer for the Ol'Aces, nailing 12.

In the only women's division game, Armatech duplicated Rollers 1 and Sonics' lopsided wins after holding IT&E to four field goals and 9 points in the first half.

Armatech's Chevy Kate Alipio outgunned the entire IT&E crew in the first half, as she scored 11 points and lifted her team to a commanding 25-9 halftime lead.

IT&E never made headway in the second half, failing to cut the deficit to a decent number, as only Kyla Ito and Madeleine Alegre hit multiple baskets for the team.

First Game

Rollers 1 77–Mendoza 15, Fidelino 12, Arciaga 11, Espinosa 11, Camacho 9, Factor 7, Malonzo 5, Vivero 2, De Leon 2.

Kagman 56–Je. Santos 18, Yu 14, Jo. Santos 9, Lampkin 9, Palino 6.

Scoring by halves: 39-37, 77-56.

Second Game

Armatech 54–Alipio 20, Pagarao 9, Alferos 8, Castillo 5, Mettao 4, Fleming 4, Abrams 2.

IT&E 29–Ito 12, Alegre 7, Manibusan 3, Flores 2, Lopez 2, Deleon Guerrero 1.

Scoring by halves: 25-9, 54-29.

Third Game

Sonics 68–Feria 14, Manzano 14, Aranda 11, De Guzman 11, Alegre 9, Flores 6, Villanueva 2, Javier 2.

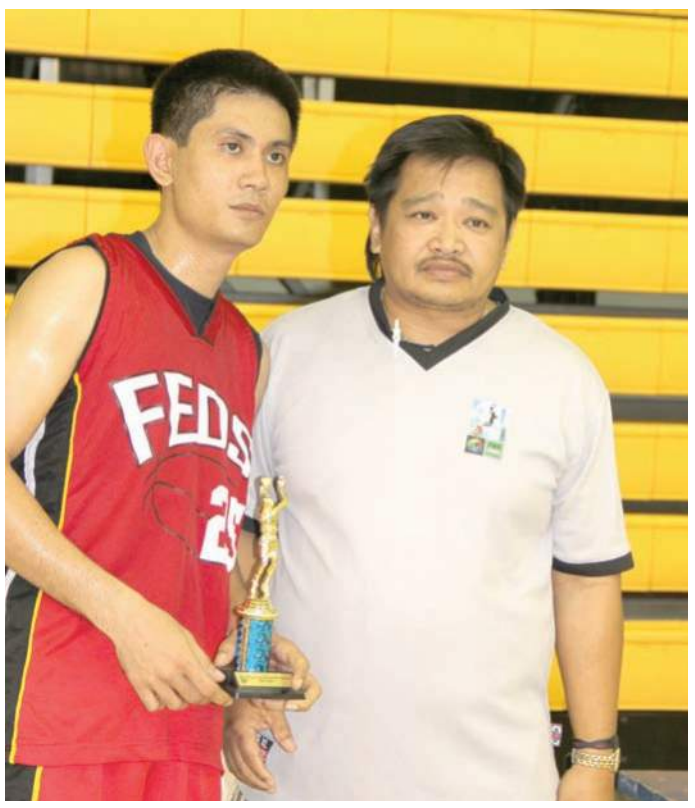
Ol'Aces 36–Montes 12, Nakashima 5, Leowel Cristobal 5, Leonard Cristobal 4, Moses 3, Castillo 3, Ermitanio 2, Miller 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-14, 68-36.

2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-Government Basketball League

The NMSA Spartans enjoy a light moment after beating the Feds, 79-75, in overtime in the finals of the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Feds big man Ken McCain, taking advantage of his 6'9" frame, receives the best in rebounds award with his 15 boards average in every match.

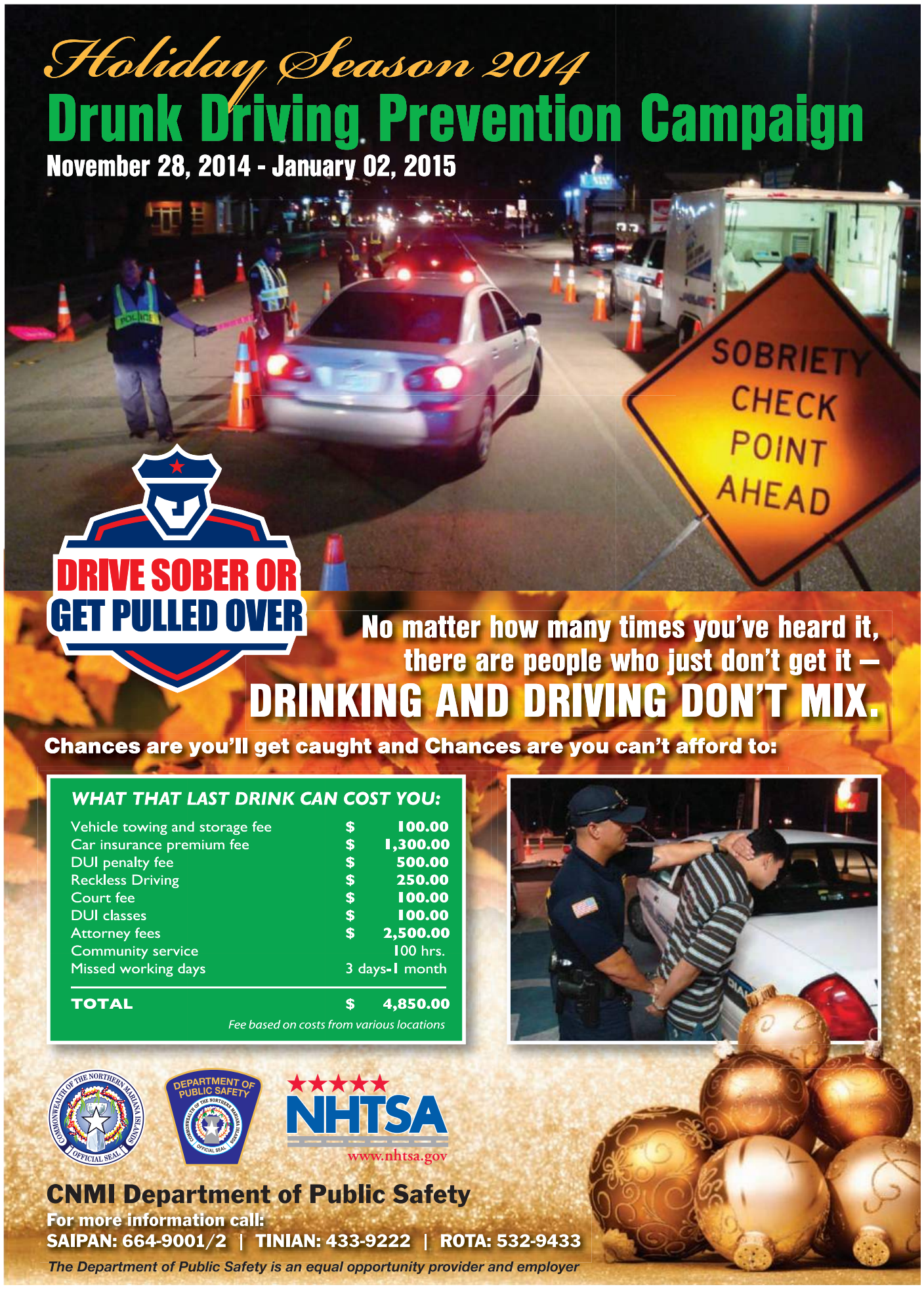


The Feds' Ronnel Gamboa, left, gets one of his two awards from league coordinator Abner Venus. He was named regular season Most Valuable Player and topped the steals department with his 5 per game.

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Elias Rangamar of the Northern Marianas Sports Association Spartans takes one of the individual awards in the competition as he was named the league's top court general by issuing 5 assists per game.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Bryan Manabat receives their third place trophy.


Holiday Season 2014
Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign
November 28, 2014 - January 02, 2015
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DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER
No matter how many times you've heard it, there are people who just don't get it –
DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.
Chances are you'll get caught and Chances are you can't afford to:
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Vehicle towing and storage fee $ 100.00
Car insurance premium fee $ 1,300.00
DUI penalty fee $ 500.00
Reckless Driving $ 250.00
Court fee $ 100.00
DUI classes $ 100.00
Attorney fees $ 2,500.00
Community service 100 hrs.
Missed working days 3 days-1 month
TOTAL $ 4,850.00
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Bengals beat Broncos to reach playoffs

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Parker returns, leads Spurs past Clippers

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NMSA to stay within renovation budget

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi said they will carefully monitor the expenses for the renovation of the Oleai track and field facility as repair works are expected to begin early next year.

A Community Development Block Grant from the Northern Mariana Housing Corp. will fund the refurbishing of the track facility as harsh weather conditions and years of continued use added to the deterioration of the rubber surface where black patches and bubbles have already formed.

"We are going to stick within the working budget. We're trying to stay on the amount allotted for the project. We don't want to go beyond the money that was appropriated on the grant," said Rogolifoi in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

NMSA has already completed the paperwork NMHC required to give clearance for the renovation of the track. NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes, in an earlier report, said that the CNMI Historical Preservation Office has also released clear-

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JON PEREZ
The Northern Marianas Sports Association hopes renovation of the Oleai track and field facility start by March so that CNMI athletes could again use it by the middle of 2015.

Swimmers set 27 PBTS in 5 events

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five of the first six events in the 2014-2015 NMISF Mid-Season Meet produced 27 personal best times.

The meet held on Dec. 13 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool started with the 1,500m freestyle and followed by the 100m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, and 400m freestyle.

Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe was the first to hit a PBT as she completed the girls 9 to 10's 100m breaststroke race in 1:40.49, more than four seconds faster than her previous PBT of 1:44.35.

Three other swimmers—Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova and Tsunami Saipan's Daime Rivera and Rentaro Suzuki—earned PBTs in the same event. Chentsova was the lone swimmer in the girls 15 to 16 age group and surpassed her old PBT (1:42.50) after complet-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A male swimmer gasps for air during a Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-sanctioned meet late this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming pool.

Sonics, Rollers 1 rout opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics and Rollers 1 waltzed past separate foes in the boys U19 division games in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 1 played in the curtain-raiser and whipped Kagman, 77-56, while the Sonics suited up in the last match of the night and crushed the Ol'Aces. 68-36. Armatech and IT&E dueled in the second and lone match in the women's open division with the former also bagging an easy win, 54-29.

In the first game, Rollers 1 outclassed Kagman in the second half with Mike Espinosa and Jun Fidelino teaming up in the breakaway. The two players scored 9 points apiece in the second half, turning a slim 39-37 first half advantage to a 21-point winning margin.

Rollers 1 held on to the 2-point cushion after the first 20 minutes of play, thanks to Kobee Mendoza, who drilled the team's last 6 markers. Mendoza went on to top-score for Rollers 1 with his 15, while Fidelino added 12, and Espinosa and Mike Arciaga chipped in 11 apiece.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics' Gerald Flores goes up for a shot against a phalanx of Ol'Aces defenders during the first half of their game in the U19 division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.